

March 24, 2025

TO: Senate Committee on Housing and Development
FROM: Ali King, on behalf of Our Children Oregon's 2025 Children's Agenda
SUBJECT: Support for SB 722

Chair Pham, Vice-Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ali King and I am the Policy and Advocacy Director for Our Children Oregon (OCO), a statewide organization that champions equitable policies and opportunities for every child by leveraging data and research. The Children's Agenda, convened annually by OCO, brings together more than 135 organizations statewide to create a holistic legislative agenda dedicated to improving the wellbeing of Oregon's children, youth, and families.

SB 722, which provides crucial protections for tenants and ensures fairer practices in the rental market, **is prioritized in the 2025 Children's Agenda and has strong and broad support from our partner organizations across Oregon.**

I wrote the testimony below in support of SB 722 and want to submit our opposition to the -1 amendments that would gut its protections. SB 722 would extend the protections of the rent stabilization statute to cover 40,000 more units by reducing the new construction loophole. These amendments strip that part of the bill. This is the only policy proposal on the table this session that would provide immediate relief for the extreme rents and affordability crisis so many in our community are struggling with, so we urge you to oppose those amendments.

As a coalition of child and family advocates, educators, administrators, parents, and policy experts, we have seen firsthand how stable housing is foundational to economic security, public health, and overall well being, particularly for marginalized and vulnerable communities. In 2023, 51.8% of Oregon families faced rental cost burden.¹ In the 2022–2023 school year, 3.9% of Oregon students faced unstable housing, with dramatically higher percentages cited in many school districts across the state (McKenzie SD 68–24.24%, Arlington SD 3–22%, Oakridge SD 76–18.52, Butte Falls SD 91–17.35%).²

For children and youth, housing instability is linked to poor physical and mental health outcomes, which leads to various other issues, including lower rates of attendance in school and declining educational outcomes.

SB 722 is the only policy tool on the table this session that would provide immediate and measurable protection for Oregonians suffering due to rent spikes as a result of our state's affordable housing crisis.

We appreciate the work you do for Oregon's families and children. We strongly urge you to **support SB 722** and to **oppose the -1 amendments** to ensure that Oregon's rental market remains fair and accessible for all Oregonians.

Sincerely,
Our Children Oregon
Stable Homes for Oregon Families
Fair Shot Coalition

¹ ACS 5-year estimates, table B25070

² <https://www.oregon.gov/ode/schools-and-districts/grants/esea/mckinney-vento/Pages/default.aspx>

THE 2025 CHILDREN'S AGENDA

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Center for Childhood Safety and Wellbeing
Children's Institute
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Latino Network
Neighborhood Partnerships
Next Up Action Fund
Nurse-Family Partnership
Oregon Association of Relief Nurseries
Oregon Association of Student Councils
Oregon Center for Public Policy
Oregon Community Alliance of Tenants
Oregon Food Bank
Oregon Housing Alliance
Oregon Primary Care Association
Oregon School Nurses' Association
Oregon Sexual Assault Task Force
Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon
Prevent Child Abuse Oregon
Southern Oregon Success
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For questions, contact Ali King, Policy & Advocacy Director

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