

Submitter: Lynn Best
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB722

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

I am writing to you today in support of SB 722. Oregon Renters deserve stable rental prices, free from unfair annual rent increases and price-fixing tools.

This bill would improve our state's rent stabilization statutes and prohibit the use of price-fixing software to inflate rents. This is a no-cost policy tool to help address our unfolding housing affordability crisis.

Too many Oregonians already struggle to find affordable housing before the additional burden of annual rent increases that far outpace average wage increases. SB 722 would help to stabilize rental prices and help Oregonians to maintain affordable housing and ensure that AI algorithms are not used to further burden Oregon renters.

We must continue to address the needs of those most impacted by our housing crisis. The CAT renter's assistance staff helped me when I was being discriminated against for being a voucher recipient, a household of color and one with a person with disabilities. The property management was intent on displacing us and making our lives while living in their complex as difficult as possible and whilst doing that not informing us of HUD required notifications of our housing and civil rights in certain processes. It is critical to make changes to housing and rental laws including stable pricing and technology to safeguard renters, including vulnerable populations such as marginalized groups, seniors, those with language barriers and intellectually deficient renters.

I urge you to pass SB 722 to ensure that Oregonians are protected from unfair rental increases and price-fixing tools.

Sincerely,
Lynn Best
Tualatin, OR