



Chair Fahey
House Housing Committee
900 Court St NE, Room 453
Salem, OR 97301

Submitted electronically

Jan. 26th, 2021

Chair Fahey, Vice-Chairs Campos and Morgan, and members of the House Housing Committee:

The Fair Housing Council of Oregon (FHCO) is in support of House Bill 2703-1, which will require real estate license holders in Oregon to complete continuing education that includes at least three hours on fair housing laws and changes to other real estate rules and laws.

As a civil rights organization whose mission is to end housing discrimination and ensure equal access to housing throughout Oregon, FHCO recognizes the vital role that education plays in attaining these goals. We strongly believe that all participants in housing transactions benefit from greater knowledge about both their rights and responsibilities in the housing marketplace.

As the Joint Task Force on Addressing Racial Disparities in Homeownership has recognized, fair housing laws are rooted in the history of discrimination and segregation, and expanding access to education about these laws throughout the housing marketplace is a key element in opening access to homeownership for all Oregonians.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allan Lazo".

Allan Lazo, Executive Director

1221 SW Yamhill Street, Portland, Oregon 97205