

March 2, 2023

Representative Maxine Dexter Chair, House Committee on Housing and Homelessness 900 Court St NE, H-283 Salem, OR 97301

Re: House Bill 2754

Dear Chair Dexter and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Housing Alliance supports the intention of HB 2754, which is to protect low-income tenants from losing their homes and being displaced from their communities by large rent increases. Tenants who live in properties with expiring rent restrictions are especially vulnerable to displacement: they are, by definition, low-income households that have qualified for regulated affordable rental housing, and are therefore highly unlikely to be able to afford market-rate rents.

For these reasons, **the Oregon Housing Alliance has endorsed HB 3042**, which received a hearing before your committee on February 2. Whereas HB 2754 provides protection from displacement and rent increases only for tenants 60 years-old and older, HB 3042 provides protections for all tenants of properties that are losing their affordability restrictions, without distinction based on age or any other aspect of the tenant's identity.

We hope that the best elements of the two bills – HB 3042 and HB 2754 – can be brought together to protect <u>all</u> tenants from displacement when the rent restrictions on their homes expire.

Sincerely,

Cameron Herrington

Cannell fight

Director of Policy and Advocacy

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