

March 18th, 2025
Senate Committee on Housing and Development
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St NE Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for SB 722

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

My name is Samantha Shipp, and I am writing in strong support of SB 722, which will help prevent displacement and extreme rent spikes by strengthening Oregon’s rent stabilization laws and prohibiting the use of price-fixing software to artificially inflate rents.

Over the past few years, I have endured severe housing issues that have impacted my health, finances, and overall well-being. My apartments were infested with insects, had serious moisture problems, and caused major health concerns—including an emergency room visit due to blood in my stool. Despite moving to a new property, I encountered the same problems: infestations, unclean living conditions, and landlords who refused to honor lease agreements or provide necessary repairs.

Not only did I lose my health and my sense of security, but I also lost money. I had to discard belongings, move multiple times, and struggle to afford increasing rent prices, all while fighting landlords who failed to meet their legal obligations. Property managers often make deceptive promises—offering “free rent” or low initial rates—only to impose sudden rent increases that push tenants into financial distress.

Stable housing should not be a luxury. Rent increases should be fair and predictable, and landlords should be held accountable when they fail to provide habitable housing. SB 722 would extend rent stabilization protections to thousands of Oregonians, ensuring that more tenants have the security they need to stay in their homes. Additionally, this bill would prohibit the use of price-fixing AI software, which allows landlords and corporations to manipulate rent prices for profit, worsening the housing crisis.

Without stronger protections, more tenants will face the same cycle of displacement and financial instability that I have experienced. For all of these reasons, I urge lawmakers to pass SB 722 to create a more stable and fair housing system in Oregon.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to protecting Oregon renters.

Sincerely,
Samantha Shipp