

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 Sarah Sanford, and I am writing in strong support of SB 722, which will help prevent displacement, strengthen tenant protections against unsafe living conditions, and stop the use of price-fixing software that artificially inflates rents.

In my previous apartment, I suffered from exposure to toxic mold, which my landlord denied existed despite clear evidence. My health and well-being were at risk, and I had no choice but to move out because the landlord refused to address the issue. Unfortunately, my experience is not unique—many tenants across Oregon are forced to live in unsafe conditions with little recourse.

To make matters worse, I also faced annual rent increases close to the legal maximum. While I managed to keep up with them, they created a significant financial strain, making it difficult to budget and plan for the future. Unpredictable rent hikes, combined with a lack of accountability for landlords, leave tenants trapped between unsafe conditions and unaffordable rent.

I have seen firsthand how Clackamas County lacks the same tenant protections as Multnomah County, leaving renters with fewer options to seek justice when landlords refuse to maintain habitable housing. SB 722 is critical to ensuring that all Oregonians, regardless of their county, have access to safe, stable, and affordable housing. The bill's provision to prohibit price-fixing AI software will also ensure that rent prices are determined fairly, not by profit-driven algorithms that exploit tenants.

I urge you to pass SB 722 to strengthen tenant rights, hold landlords accountable, and prevent families from being forced out of their homes due to unlivable conditions and rising rents. Renters deserve better, and it is time for Oregon to take meaningful action.

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

Sincerely,
Sarah Sanford