



A STRONG VOICE

FOR OREGON'S WORKERS

February 3, 2025

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

The Oregon AFL-CIO represents 300,000 workers across Oregon and is a voice for all workers in the legislative process. Safe and stable housing is inextricably linked to the safety and prosperity of workers and their families. It's critical that we address the housing and homelessness crisis with both short and long term solutions, which is why we support SB 1523.

Many workers fundamentally lack access to or familiarity with technology like smartphones and electronic portals. For example, according to Pew Research, one out of ten people does not have a smartphone, and the number is even higher for seniors, with one out of 4 people over 65 lacking a smartphone. Despite this, it's still critical that our systems still meet those fundamental needs – including housing.

Basic housing protections for this digital age include the option to pay by check or other commercially reasonable method, the option to apply for housing on paper, and the option to a non-digital key to access facilities. These are low-cost, existing tools that landlords can simply continue to offer to ensure equal access to housing. SB 1523 codifies these three requirements to ease barriers to housing stability for Oregonians.

Implementing these new requirements will particularly benefit seniors, renters with disabilities, and low-income renters, offering concrete support to those who face a greater risk of homelessness. These budget-neutral solutions simply preserve common systems already used by landlords and property managers.

For all of these reasons, we urge your strong support of this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony and for your service to Oregon communities.