



*From the Offices of Representative Ricki Ruiz, Representative Lisa Fragala,  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Oregon Legislature Passes Bill to Expand Homeownership Goals**

**Salem, OR** – Yesterday, the Oregon Legislature took a bold step toward increasing homeownership opportunities for working families by passing House Bill 2698. The legislation, championed by Representative Ricki Ruiz (D-Gresham), establishes a clear statewide goal for homeownership and ensures progress is tracked across racial and ethnic communities that have historically faced barriers to owning a home.

“Owning a home is one of the most powerful ways for families to build stability, wealth, and opportunity,” said **Rep. Ruiz**. “For too long, rising costs and systemic inequities have locked too many Oregonians—especially communities of color—out of homeownership. This bill is about accountability and ensuring that as we work to expand housing, we’re also creating pathways to ownership for the people who need it most.”

Oregon ranks 43rd in the nation for homeownership, with only 64% of residents able to own a home. Over the past decade, median home prices have skyrocketed at a rate 7.1 times faster than incomes, making homeownership increasingly out of reach for middle- and low-income families. Communities of color, young families, and renters have been disproportionately impacted by these trends.

“Homeownership means the opportunity for families to build stability now and for future generations. This bill represents the chance for families to realize the dream of home ownership and is a step towards generational equity for Oregonians,” said **Rep. Lisa Fragala (D-Eugene)**.

HB 2698 directs the Housing and Community Services Department to track homeownership rates across different demographic groups and set clear benchmarks for improvement. This data-driven approach ensures Oregon is not only expanding housing production but also prioritizing equitable access to homeownership.

“I am so thankful for representative Ruiz’s continued leadership on home ownership in the legislature. Housing and homelessness continue to be one of, if not the biggest, issues for my district,” said **Rep. Rob Nosse (D-Inner SE & Inner NE Portland)**. “This bill establishes a strong north star in terms of clear goals for home ownership, while also working in a transparent manner to accomplish those goals. We know that home ownership builds generational wealth and promote health and well-being. I was a proud yes vote.”

With the passage of HB 2698, Oregon is leading the charge in tackling its homeownership crisis with a focus on equity, transparency, and long-term impact.

The bill now heads to the Senate for further consideration.

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