

EAST BAY FOR EVERYONE

Assemblymember Wicks :

East Bay For Everyone writes to register our support for AB724, which would create a statewide rental registry. In our present housing crisis, policymakers need good data to make good decisions. The existing data on rental prices, conditions and tenancies is often private, incomplete or otherwise insufficient. AB724 would remedy this by creating a public statewide rental registry.

In addition to informing future policymaking, a statewide rental registry can help cities enforce existing local and state tenant protections. Few cities have their own existing rental registries, and many, like Oakland, lack the resources to set up their own. AB724 would provide California cities with a baseline of information about the rental market. Cities can focus their resources on investigating and enforcing tenant protections rather than building their own discrete rental databases.

We understand that recent amendments to AB724 have raised the threshold of reporting to landlords with fifteen units. East Bay For Everyone urges you to reduce or eliminate this arbitrary threshold. As a state, we lack the most knowledge about rental conditions in properties owned by small landlords. A fifteen unit threshold threatens the integrity of the data set, especially in cities with small apartments like Berkeley. Moreover, many of our members rent homes that would not be reported under such a threshold. Their circumstances should be factored into the statewide registry.

Notwithstanding the above, AB724 is an affirmative step to understanding the current housing crisis and how we can best remedy it.

Sincerely,

The 1,000 members and supporters of East Bay for Everyone.