



1 February 2016

Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer, Chair  
Members of the House Human Services & Housing Committee  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Chair Keny-Guyer and Representatives,

Children First for Oregon advocates for long-term, systemic change by advocating for policies and programs that keep children healthy and safe and strengthen families. We write in support of HB 4001 and HB 4143 because 43% of households with children in Oregon are renters. Additionally, 26% of women with young children work in low-wage jobs. These bills stand at the nexus of those two important facts. With historically low-vacancy rates, the laws of supply-and-demand alone have led to massive increases in rents. When a family risks eviction for no-cause in 30 days or for a sudden increase in rent, the threat of homelessness can quickly become a reality.

Additionally, you have, or soon will have, a copy of the 2016 Children's Agenda produced by United for Kids. United for Kids participants share a commitment to public policy changes and shared investments that benefit the health, safety, economic security and education of Oregon's children. Ten organizations belonging to United for Kids support these bills, which will help to protect kids from housing instability and its effects, including disruptions in schooling resulting in negative impacts on academic achievement.

We ask you to join us in supporting housing stability for Oregon's children and pass HB 4001 and HB 4143.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tonia Hunt", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Tonia Hunt  
Executive Director