

Testimony of Arthur Towers
Before the House Committee on Human Services and Housing
In Favor of HB 4001
February 1, 2016

My name is Arthur Towers, Political Director for the Oregon Trial Lawyers Association. A number of OTLA members fight on behalf of clients involved in housing issues, and see first-hand the impact that the housing crisis is having on Oregonians.

We support HB 4001, and applaud the sponsors and the legislature for tackling this issue that has become a crisis across the state.

In particular, we believe that the changes in Sections 5 of the bill are very fair. The provisions in Section 5 provide a modicum of protection for renters who are in the most tenuous of situations: month-to-month or even week-to-week rental arrangements. Section 5 simply provides notification requirements that are eminently reasonable and humane. The 90-day notice provision for month-to-month renters (Section 5(4)) is very reasonable and very important.

This bill is an important step in the right direction towards leveling the playing field between renters and landlords. Obviously many more approaches must be pursued to alleviate the housing crisis affecting our state, but HB 4001 is a positive step that OTLA members can support.