



DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF LANE COUNTY

To: Oregon House Committee on Human Services and Housing
From: Chris Wig, Chair, Democratic Party of Lane County
Re: Support for HB 2004/Just-Cause Evictions

March 1, 2017

Dear Chair Keny-Guyer and Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the 104,014 Democrats in Lane County to urge you to vote Yes on House Bill 2004, which would alleviate the housing crisis in our state by creating and enforcing just-cause standards before Oregon families can be evicted from their homes.

Democrats in Lane County strongly believe that every Oregonian deserves a safe, stable and affordable place to call home.

Under the current landlord-tenant law, working families in our state can be evicted from their homes without cause and with as few as 30-days' notice, even if they have followed the rules and paid their rent in full and on time. During the 2016 short session, the Legislature took decisive action by extending the notice of rent increases to 90 days. It's time to circle back and establish just-cause standards for evictions or at least extend no-cause eviction notice to 90 days.

No-cause evictions are a key driver of homelessness in Eugene and Lane County, and resources that provide services and transitional housing to unhoused Eugenians will remain under severe strain unless something can be done to prevent low-income people from losing their housing.

HB 2004 will provide needed protection to working families in Oregon by preventing them from becoming displaced without a valid reason. In addition, HB 2004 will provide greater protection from discrimination for members of protected classes under federal, Oregon and local laws.

Please contact me if you have any questions or require additional information. I look forward to working with you to create a safe, prosperous and enduring Oregon.

Sincerely,

Chris Wig
Chair
Democratic Party of Lane County