



February 28, 2017

Dear Chair Keny-Guyer and members of the Human Services and Housing Committee:

I write on behalf of Oregon Opportunity Network (Oregon ON), the statewide association of affordable housing and community development nonprofits, to urge your support for HB 2004. We strongly support HB 2004, which would establish a just-cause eviction standard and would enable local jurisdictions to consider enacting a rent stabilization program, should they so choose.

Oregon ON is part of the Stable Homes for Oregon Families coalition, a diverse group of partners who believe that our current laws allowing no-cause evictions and pre-empting any consideration of local rent stabilization, are contributing to the instability and displacement of vulnerable renters in communities across Oregon.

I am sure you are hearing from many landlords voicing concerns about HB 2004. Please know that our members who own and operate affordable rental housing, are themselves landlords. In addition, our housing authority members work closely with private landlords who rent to folks with Section 8 vouchers.

As landlords, our members understand first-hand the challenges of the landlord-tenant relationship, and the need for a balanced approach that protects the rights of all parties. We strongly believe that tenants need greater protections from the current market, and that the seriousness of the rental housing crisis in communities across Oregon warrants bold action.

We know that a stable, safe place to call home is the key to success in life. We know the policy and resource strategies that can put us back on track to meeting the housing needs of the most vulnerable Oregonians. Along with other measures that will increase the supply of rental homes and bolster homeownership opportunity, which we are also supporting, enacting additional tenant protections is a vital component of the housing solution. We urge your support of HB 2004, and we thank you for your tireless service to Oregon.

Sincerely,

Jerome Brooks  
Executive Director

## **Oregon ON member organizations:**

### **Statewide**

CASA of Oregon  
Cascadia Behavioral  
Healthcare  
Catholic Charities  
Enterprise Community  
Partners  
Habitat for Humanity of  
Oregon  
Housing Development  
Center  
NOAH (Network for  
Oregon Affordable  
Housing)  
Northwest Housing  
Alternatives  
Rural Community  
Assistance Corporation

### **Central & Eastern Oregon**

Columbia Cascade  
Housing  
Community Connection  
of NE Oregon  
Housing Works  
NeighborImpact  
UGMW Nonprofit  
Development  
Corporation

### **Coastal**

Northwest Coastal  
Housing  
Community Action  
Team, Inc.

### **Southern Oregon**

ACCESS  
Housing Authority of  
Jackson County  
NeighborWorks Umpqua

### **Willamette Valley**

Catholic Community  
Services Foundation  
Community Home  
Builders  
Cornerstone Community  
Housing  
Farmworker Housing  
Development  
Corporation  
Housing and Community  
Services of Lane County  
(HACSA)  
Integrated Supports for  
Living, Inc.  
NEDCO  
Polk CDC  
St Vincent de Paul of  
Lane County

Willamette  
Neighborhood Housing  
Services

### **Portland Metro**

Bienestar  
BRIDGE Housing  
Central City Concern  
Community Housing  
Fund  
CPAH  
Habitat for Humanity  
Portland/Metro East  
Hacienda CDC  
Home Forward  
Housing Authority of  
Clackamas County  
Housing Authority of  
Washington County  
Human Solutions, Inc.  
Innovative Housing, Inc.  
NAYA Family Center  
PCRI  
Portland Housing Center  
Proud Ground  
REACH Community  
Development  
ROSE Community  
Development  
Sabin CDC

...Plus over 100 businesses, government agencies, community organizations and individuals across Oregon who support our mission.