

27 February 2017

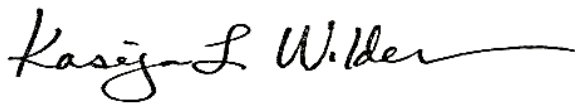
Dear Chair Keny-Guyer and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of our 1,800 members in Oregon, the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Oregon Chapter is proud to support HB 2004. NASW is the largest and most recognized membership organization of professional social workers in the world. As defined in our code of ethics, the primary mission of a social worker is to enhance human wellbeing and to ensure that basic human needs are provided to every member of our community, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty.

I am writing to urge you to support HB 2004, which would prohibit landlords from evicting tenants without cause. Many Oregonians, including people with minor dependents, find it close to impossible to find suitable housing they can afford. When people who are barely making it financially abruptly lose their housing, it can cause financial crisis or even ruin. This is a reality faced by people across our state, in urban as well as rural areas. As a social worker living and working in Eugene, I have felt the threat of losing my home because I am a renter. Increasing protections for tenants would stabilize housing for hardworking people who can be easily devastated by an unexpected, forced, and expensive move.

The Legislative Committee of NASW Oregon Chapter has identified HB 2004 as a priority issue in the 2017 legislative session due to its major impact on our members and the communities we serve. On behalf of this committee, I strongly recommend that you support this bill to make Oregon a safer place for all of us to live.

Thank you for your consideration,



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