

I am an architectural designer in Portland and I have long been interested in the role of architecture in alleviating homelessness, but more recently I have delved deeper into research on the policy behind ending homelessness and easing the burden of displacement caused by the housing crisis in our community. I feel very strongly about the necessity of HB2004 and HB2001 passing to protect renters in our community and statewide. Stable housing is vital for strong, diverse communities. Food assistance in Oregon increased to an all time high during the recession but because of the housing crisis in our community the number of families that need food assistance has yet to decrease despite overall economic growth in our state. I volunteer frequently at the Oregon Food Bank, they are very open that most of their clients are employed but with the rising costs of rents they much choose each month between housing and food. If Oregon is to embrace the progressive reputation that they have been given nationally, we much extend protections to the most vulnerable in our state, we must prevent mass displacement of minority communities and poor families from their homes. We must embrace a wide range of tactics to prevent a further rise in homelessness in our state. In Portland the homelessness crisis is most visible, but state wide there are students without a consistent place to live, this affects their education and in turn hurts our economy in the long run. As members of the House Committee on Human Services and Housing please make renter protections for Oregonians a top priority, protect against no-cause evictions and eliminate the prohibition on rent stabilization at the state level.

Thank you,
Kaylyn Berry