



March 2, 2017

Dear Members of the House Committee on Human Services and Housing,

On behalf of the Oregon Latino Health Coalition, I respectfully request your support for HB 2004 to end no-cause evictions and repeal the ban on rent stabilization. The Oregon Latino Health Coalition is dedicated to promoting health and wellness to reduce health disparities in the Latino community. Our organization fully supports HB 2004 because housing stability serves as a platform for providing supportive services to improve the health of vulnerable populations, including Latino families.

Evictions with no reason and extreme rent increases cause immense financial hardship on working families that can force them to deplete their savings, force them into homelessness and send them into a spiral of poverty. Moreover, these practices disproportionately impact families of color, worsening inequities and pulling communities apart. Families that can only find affordable housing in areas with very high poverty levels may be prone to greater psychological distress and exposure to higher environmental hazards affecting their general health as well.

Studies continually show that homeless children are more vulnerable to mental health problems, developmental delays, poor cognitive outcomes, and depression than children who are stably housed, and that stable housing is strongly associated with improved mental health outcomes and a reduction in the number of days hospitalized among formerly homeless adults. Less extreme housing instability, including frequent moves, living in doubled-up housing, eviction, and foreclosure, is also related to elevated stress levels, depression, and hopelessness.

HB 2004 will protect housing stability by creating a just cause eviction standard, which would require a legitimate reason for termination, such as a lease violation or a landlord's business or family necessity; and by repealing the state prohibition on local jurisdictions' ability to consider rent stabilization policies, such as ordinances that would slow the rate and speed of rent increases for tenants while still allowing landlords a reasonable rate of return.

We hope that you will join us in support of HB 2004 to ensure that working families improve their health outcomes by freeing up family resources for nutritious food and health care expenditures.

Thank you,

Linda Roman
Policy Director