



OREGON

March 3, 2017

Chair Alissa Keny-Guyer,
Representatives Andy Olson, Tawna Sanchez, Chris Gorsek, Mark Meek, Mike Nearman,
Ron Noble, Carla Piluso, and Duane Stark
House Human Services and Housing Committee
Oregon State House of Representatives
Salem, OR

Dear Representatives,

Fight Crime: Invest In Kids is a national nonprofit, bipartisan organization with a national membership of over 5000 with over 130 law enforcement leaders across Oregon. We are supportive of measures that will make our communities safe. One such measure is a stable and safe home for kids. This is why we urge you to support HB 2004 relating to Residential Tenancies.

The earliest years of a child's life lay the crucial groundwork that all future learning and development is based on, and these years can keep children on the right track and avoid turning to crime later in life. For these reasons, it is critical that children are in a safe and stable environment that they can depend on and one that will not change from day-to-day, week-to-week or month-to-month.

Consider that frequent moves during childhood can lead to "declines in social skills" and increases emotional and behavioral problems. These moves interrupt their development of social networks and potentially contribute too psychological stress in children, which in turn decreases, their emotional stability.

We know that families with children who are in affordable and stable housing allows domestic violence survivors to escape their abusers and develop new lives. It can also add to the overall stability of the family, reduce the risk of homelessness; reduce domestic violence all together by reducing the financial stressors on the family.

Safe, stable, and affordable housing improves literacy for young children which in turn can increase graduation rates and reduce crime rates; and can improve health by enabling families to spend more on nutritious foods, which in turn improves health outcomes.

If children and their families are continually displaced due to rent evictions out of their control, they are being set up for potential outcomes that will bring them in to contact with law enforcement, reduce their chances of high school graduation and perpetuate a cycle of two or more generational problems that can include poverty.

I ask that you support HB 2004 and give children and families an opportunity to succeed.

Sincerely,

Martha Brooks, State Director

C: Governor Kate Brown

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