

My name is Grant, and I am a cost burdened renter, full time undergraduate student at PSU in my sixth year, and part time employee at Starbucks. I often cannot make my rent, utilities, food costs, transportation costs and necessary school payments without the help of my school loans. I am writing today because I am concerned that my renter status is uncertain while I finish my last year in school. I have already moved twice in the last year due to unaffordable rent prices, and am currently only able to afford a room in a house with four other people because we all share the rent. I have utilized the Portland State Food Pantry, where I get free donated food when I cannot afford to buy my own. I have often run the risk of incurring a ticket on public transit because I cannot afford the cost of a max pass. When my bicycle broke down in December, I had no extra money to fix it and have been walking for the last couple months. I am \$1000 short on my final tuition payment, and will not be able to finish my final 12 credits in one term because I cannot pay my bill. These are all costs that I bear alone as a 23 year old individual. Wages are not increasing fast enough to create security for me as a renter and a student. If I am homeless before I can finish my degree as a result of a rent increase I cannot afford or a no cause eviction, it will be incredibly hard for me to complete a degree I have worked on continuously for six years.

I am writing to fervently urge you to fully support HB 2004, without any cuts to the bill. I desperately need this and will not be able to continue to keep up much longer with the costs of living while only working part time and going to school. I need you to pass this bill, and then to let cities work on their own rent control policies so that I can have some amount of stability to finish my degree and establish myself as a young working person. Without these necessary protections, it will be extremely challenging to pay off my \$30,000 in student loans as well as hold a stable job. This bill could have a huge effect on my livelihood in the next several years.

Please fully support HB 2004 without any exceptions!

Grant Walter