

Hello,

My family of five has been renting in Oregon for seven years. In those seven years, we saw our rent go up a total of \$750. That's \$9,000 more per year. Our wages have not increased anywhere near that percentage, and our family is now significantly cost-burdened. Our carefully guarded savings have been depleted to the point where we couldn't even afford to move to a city with lower rents. We take care of our units, always pay on time, and are good tenants. We work hard and are active volunteers in our community. Even with scrimping and saving and working hard to find better paying jobs, we find some months that we cannot make ends meet.

Living in Portland, I have seen family after family lose their home via a no-cause eviction or a rent increase that forces them to move. Often these families do not have savings left to cover moving expenses because they have been cost-burdened by skyrocketing rents.

I urge you to support HB 2004 to help even out the balance of privilege between tenants and landlords. Tenants are the most vulnerable people in these situations and it's time to protect our people. Keep Oregonians housed. Support HB 2004.

I am a renter, I vote, and I will pay careful attention to your choices.

Regards,
Frank Escamilla