

Senate Committee on Human Services
May 1, 2017
House Bill 2004 Relating to Residential Tenancies
Chair Gelser and members of the Committee,

I would like to voice my support for HB 2004. This fall my partner and I were able to purchase a home, something we weren't entirely sure would be possible in the Oregon housing market. We feel so incredibly lucky to have had this opportunity to ensure the stability of our housing. Over the last few years, our anxiety as renters was building as we watched rents continue to sky-rocket. After purchasing our home, a dear friend quickly moved in with us because she was unable to find an affordable rental option.

Having safe, stable, affordable housing allows us to actively participate in our communities. It means we show up to work well rested. We stay healthy because we have a place to cook nutritious meals and the time to exercise. We don't have to live in fear of a no-cause eviction or an impossible rent hike. It deeply pains me that so many others across the state cannot stay the same.

We will need a multitude of tools to address the severe housing crisis affecting Oregon communities. Fortunately, HB 2004 provides a few tools to get us started. It's time to do right by renters and protect them from the cruelty of no-cause evictions and out-of-balance rent increases.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill, and for your service to the people of Oregon.

Sincerely,
Jill Winsor, Portland (Earlham College class of 2006 – Go Quakers!)