

Rosenberg Corey

From: Susan Ban <sban@sheltercare.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 02, 2017 2:13 PM
To: SHS Exhibits
Subject: HB 2004A- Support`

I write as the Executive Director for ShelterCare, a non-profit human services agency in Lane County. Our programs provide housing and services to a variety of vulnerable households. My office is adjacent to ShelterCare's Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP). Through HPP we help households (typically families with children) prevent homelessness with short-term loans, advocacy, resource connection and other practical supports. It is an increasing and alarming emerging trend that those who ask us for help are being forced out of housing solely because of increases in rent that make the cost of housing unaffordable and housing unsustainable. A housing search ensues for the family at risk of losing housing and most frequently, nothing is available that this household can afford. We can't help with financial or service supports if there is no housing available. We will try to intervene with the landlord or property owner, explaining the situation. Sometimes we will talk with a prospective landlord asking for a reduction in rent. In both cases we are only rarely and miraculously successful. It is more often the case that the family loses their housing and enters the downward spiral of homelessness. Our communities need just cause eviction and rent stabilization constraints to support the availability of affordable housing for those in the middle - not qualifying for affordable housing and not able to afford the rents for the existing market. Please support HB 2004A. Our communities need a safe and healthy workforce - tenant protections and rent stabilization are effective tools to protect the character of our communities.

Susan A. Ban, Executive Director, ShelterCare

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