



We build strength, stability, self-reliance and shelter.

May 2, 2017

To: Senate Committee on Human Services

Dear Chair Gelser, Vice Chair Olsen and Members of the Committee:

The purpose of this letter is to express Habitat for Humanity of Oregon's strong support for HB 2004A.

Over the past 18 months, in communities throughout the state local Habitat offices are continually receiving heart-wrenching pleas from displaced renters seeking help. Many of these households have been paying their rent on time and maintaining their property respectfully for over a decade.

Unchecked market forces have combined to leave them without a home and with no prospects of moving into a property they can afford. Renters are as little as 30 days away from losing their homes for no reason. This impacts everyone: children, workers and communities.

All of us at Habitat for Humanity would love to build and sell an affordable home to each of these displaced families. Unfortunately, we do not have the resources to do so.

Please act now to create a new standard for just cause eviction and repeal the statewide ban on rent control so that communities can work together to rapidly address the statewide housing crisis. This amended bill preserves landlords' property rights while protecting Oregon renters. Please support HB 2004A because everyone deserves a safe, stable place to call home.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this life-changing policy decision—and for the important work that you do every day.

With Appreciation,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shannon M. Vilhauer".

Shannon M. Vilhauer, Executive Director

Habitat for Humanity of Oregon

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