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### **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2004A**

**Submitted to the Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services**

**By Amy Davidson, Crime Survivor Program Director, Partnership for Safety and Justice**

**May 3, 2017**

Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee:

Partnership for Safety and Justice (PSJ) is a statewide, non-profit organization that has worked to reform public safety and criminal justice policy in Oregon since 1999. We advance policy solutions to crime that ensure justice, equity, accountability, and healing to achieve safe and strong communities.

Today, on behalf of PSJ, I respectfully request your support for HB 2004A to end no-cause evictions and repeal the ban on rent stabilization. The state's lack of affordable or stable housing disproportionately impacts communities of color, people at an economic disadvantage, and working class families. It also has a dramatic impact on survivors of crime and formerly incarcerated individuals trying to rebuild their lives and the lives of their families.

Across the state, survivors of intimate partner violence experience eviction daily for simply calling law enforcement on their abusive partners. Today, most survivors will choose staying with their abusers to avoid the perils of homelessness. Other crime survivors will make the difficult choice of staying in unsafe living situations where drug abuse and other unsafe living conditions are present each day, putting themselves and their children at risk.

Formerly incarcerated individuals attempting to reenter their communities in meaningful ways also face the barrier of a system that expects accountability without access to viable pathways to change. One of the most important factors for success in reentry is stable, affordable housing.

Stable homes promote educational and economic opportunity for all families. This, we know, improves outcomes for survivors of crime and those who have committed crime. HB 2004A will protect housing stability by creating a just cause eviction standard, which would require a legitimate reason for termination, such as a lease violation or a landlord's business or family necessity. Furthermore, HB 2004A would create stabilization by repealing the state's prohibition on local jurisdictions' ability to consider rent stabilization policies, such as ordinances that would slow the rate and speed of rent increases for tenants while still allowing landlords a reasonable rate of return.

HB 2004A would help ensure the most basic of needs are met for all Oregonians. Everyone deserves a stable place to call home. PSJ urges your support of HB 2004A.