
Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon

March 2, 2017

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

As the state's leading political voice for reproductive healthcare, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon is proud to be a part of the Fair Shot for All coalition, which is making important advancements to ensure that all women and families in Oregon have a level playing field to achieve success.

At Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon, we know that stable housing is a social determinant of health. In Oregon, many landlords are doing right by their tenants. However, some landlords are using no-cause evictions to avoid the simple legal process for removing tenants, and others are imposing extreme rent increases that force families out of their homes and communities. Evictions with no reason and extreme rent increases cause immense financial hardship on working families that often require them to deplete their savings, force them into homelessness, and/or send them into a spiral of poverty. Even if a family does not lose their home, large rent increases mean families spend more of their income on housing, and less on other basic necessities like healthcare. Four in ten Oregonians rent their home; this translates to roughly 1.5 million people in our state being potentially vulnerable to unpredictable housing changes. Moreover, these practices disproportionately impact families of color, worsening inequities and pulling communities apart.

That is why we are writing to thank you for your consideration of HB 2004A, which will protect housing stability by creating a just cause eviction standard, requiring a legitimate reason for termination; and by repealing the state 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.

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon supports efforts like HB 2004A because housing affects health outcomes and is an underlying, contributing factor of health inequities in Oregon. Planned Parenthood patients rely on stable homes in order to live healthy, successful lives, in which they are able to access the healthcare they need. We hope that you will join us in support of HB 2004A.

Sincerely,



Mary Nolan
Executive Director
Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon