

May 2, 2017

Thank you Chair Gelser, Vice Chair Olsen, and Members of Senate Human Services Committee:

I support HB 2004.

I am Deborah Olson. I am one of the 40% of Oregonians who rent. I have been a renter for over 40 years.

In December 2014 my rent was \$710.00. I paid out of pocket \$179.00. My voucher helped me with the rest. I lived there for 8 years. I had to move because of shoddy repairs. A 12 year-old boy with cerebral palsy fell through the bathroom floor. My former landlord has 62 units.

No repairs unless you call the city inspector. I had to call twice just to get things fixed. There were roaches, broken tiles and rotten floors. All in total there were 11 violations. No insulation. The rents at my former complex which I had to move from are now \$1,000.00. For the same shoddy apts. That is a 40% Rent INCREASE!

Right now, my income is \$735.00. My rent in my new building is \$397.00 and my voucher pays the balance. That is **54%** of my income. It is a struggle to pay for heat, phone, and food. I also get a food box or 2. I eat at Meals on Wheels and Zerapath Kitchen. I cannot imagine how the other 203 families in my new community are making ends meet with rents as high as they are.

A few of my neighbors have had to move in with relatives because they could not afford the rent hikes. Another neighbor went into assisted living when her husband died. With the loss of his income, she could only pay her apartment rent. Nothing more. Her costs at assisted living are about \$5,000.00 per month.

A few of my senior neighbors are having to cut out some of their medications. The rent increases take away the money they have for much needed prescriptions.

4 out of 10 are Oregonians, almost half of Oregon are renters. We need help. We are struggling.

Please Vote for HB 2004. The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few.

(Mr. Spock)

Thank you,  
Deborah Olson  
CAT Board Member