

May 3, 2017

RE: Support for HB 2004A

Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of our 1,800 members in Oregon, the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Oregon Chapter is proud to support HB 2004A. NASW is the largest and most recognized membership organization of professional social workers in the world. As defined in our code of ethics, the primary mission of a social worker is to enhance human wellbeing and to ensure basic human needs are met. Much of our work focuses on people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty.

As a member of the NASW Board of Directors and a school social worker in Lebanon, I urge you to support HB 2004A. This bill would create reasonable protections for renters and allow local governments to implement rent-stabilization policies.

Many Oregonians, including people with minor dependents, find it extremely difficult to find suitable housing they can afford. When people abruptly lose their housing without cause, it can cause financial crisis and instability. Oregonians across our state experience no-cause evictions, including renters in urban and rural communities.

As a school social worker, I witness every day the effects of housing insecurity on children and their families. HB 2004A would increase protections for tenants and stabilize housing for hardworking people who can be easily devastated by an unexpected, forced, and expensive move.

The NASW Oregon Chapter has identified HB 2004A as a priority issue in the 2017 legislative session due to its major impact on our members and the communities we serve. On behalf of our members, I strongly recommend passing this bill to make Oregon safer and more prosperous for all.

Thank you,

Martha Calderon, LSSW, CSWA
Green Acres Elementary
700 S. 10th St.
Lebanon, OR 97355