

**May 2, 2017**

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

My name is Caitlyn Kennedy and I am renter and voter in SE Portland, as well as a service provider at Transition Projects serving people who are homeless transition into stable housing. I have seen the negative impact of both unregulated rent increases and no-cause evictions first hand.

I have supported numerous individuals who are hardworking individuals that can't keep up with the rising rent in their building, even after taking on two jobs. Regardless that over 60% of their income was going to rent they were unable to keep up and eventually received a 72 hour notice for no-payment of rent. Not knowing their rights and the court process, they ended up with a recent eviction on their record. This recent eviction makes it nearly impossible to be approved for another rental, if they could find something that they could afford. We have hard-working, dedicated individuals living on our streets and in their cars because of rent increases alone.

We must pair and pass both controls on no-cause evictions and lifting the state wide ban on rent stability at the same time in order to protect our Oregonians. I also was a victim of a no-cause eviction from my last place after 5 years, when my landlord realized how much of a profit he could receive for the home in the real estate market. Eight individuals were displaced with that one decision. I had been saving as much money as I could on a non-profit salary so that I could hopefully buy a home of my own in the future. My entire savings was depleted because of this eviction. I had to come up with moving costs, first and last months' rent, and a sizable deposit on a place where my rent increased 30% from what I was paying. I was lucky enough that I had this savings to pull from and much as I did not want to. 6 in 10 Americans don't have enough in savings to pay for an emergency of \$1000. The emergency that a no-cause eviction caused me was much more than \$1000, by the way. If I didn't have this savings I also could have been a hard-working, determined individual living in my car but instead of giving services at my job, I would need to be receiving them.

HB 2004A supports and protects 48% of Oregonians from the uncertainty of homelessness, inability to save or plan for the future, job loss, retaliation, and discrimination. We need to pass this bill to provide fairness and stability for millions of Oregonian renters and voters. I am counting on you to support and pass HB 2004A.

Respectfully,

Caitlyn Kennedy  
Renter, Voter, Service Provider