

Rosenberg Corey

From: Amber Cook <acook4321@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 02, 2017 10:36 PM
To: SHS Exhibits
Subject: Please Support HB 2004A

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

My name is Amber Cook and I've lived in Portland for 25 years as a renter.

I lost my home in 2014 when my partner left me and I was trying to become an author, so had no recent work history in a time where that means no one will hire you. In addition I have a physical disability that makes it harder to get jobs, and suffer from severe sleep apnea, making it harder to work full-time. But I can't get on disability and can't get into subsidized housing, so I've been struggling with near homelessness this whole time.

My landlord of 15 years, who praised me to the skies every one of those fifteen years for being a fantastic tenant, gave me a 30 day no cause eviction the first month I started having financial trouble. So my decade and a half of loyalty and exemplary tenancy almost landed me on the streets with him because he had no loyalty or decency for me.

Then I rented a room in a house with a woman who changed her mind about having me there though I followed all rules, payed all rent on time, and was a very good tenant—and gave me a thirty day no cause notice after first trying to kick me out in 2 weeks. Trying to find a new place to live with almost no money and no job was impossible and I would have been homeless but for a friend who let me live with her for free for a year while I fought to get back on my feet.

Then I moved in with my boyfriend in HUD housing for a year and a half, which was wonderful because it was affordable on my income. But he became abusive with his anger and gave me a thirty day no cause move-out notice and here I am—AGAIN, struggling to find a place to live in less than thirty days or facing homelessness while I wait to get into a shelter.

I have an International Baccalaureate degree, went to Reed College, have no drug or alcohol, mental health issues, and am a very good author and artist. But my life has been derailed and traumatized three times already by other people having the power to kick me out for no good reason, leaving me with a little over 4 weeks to desperately try to find somewhere else while housing becomes dramatically more expensive and scarce. Thirty days may sound like enough when you have extra money, a car, and are able-bodied, but it is terrifying and traumatic when you don't.

Please support HB 2004A for the good of vulnerable Oregon citizens and Portland residents like me who need a stable place to live and deserve to keep their place when they are law-abiding, rule following and decent tenants.

Thank you,
Amber Cook