

From: Damon Hays
To: [SHS Exhibits](#)
Subject: Please support HB 2004A to provide fairness and stability for millions of Oregonians
Date: Thursday, May 04, 2017 11:29:45 AM

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

My family and I live in a 1 bedroom apartment in East Portland. While we regularly voice our appreciation for our home stability, perceived and/or reality based, the thought of a significant rent increase and no-cause eviction is never far from our mind. We have experienced our rent increase in the amount of \$300 in the 3 years we have been at our address, and are not expecting that trend to stop any time soon. We are great tenants by any measure of the definition and would not have anything to worry about, but in my role of a community social worker, I am a constant witness to this unfortunate phenomenon that occurs in our community.

I serve as a Veterans Case Manager for Veterans facing homelessness or those facing imminent loss of their housing. While we as a team have helped hundreds, in excess of one thousand actually, find permanent housing and/or successfully avoid eviction and retain their housing, the unfortunate reality is that too many of these individuals and families have lost their housing or are finding it increasingly difficult to even enter our current housing market due to excessive rent amounts (admittedly another huge issue in and of itself). On numerous occasions I have worked with families who lived at their residences for many years only to be served a no-cause eviction rendering them homeless with no alternative resources to call upon. Not only does this devastate the individual family in myriad ways, but the cost to the community is significant as they turn to community resources where they can, which are frequently more expensive than preventative measures.

As a proud community member of Portland and in my professional role as well, I am tired and angry and hurt, that these incidents continue to happen to people, making life harder than the challenges that they already face. The 4 in 10 Oregon households that are renters need protection from eviction without cause and extreme and sudden rent increases. We must act now. We cannot build our way out of this problem. Please support HB 2004A to provide fairness and stability for the millions of Oregonians who are renters.

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from homelessness to housing

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