

To: Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Charlie Swanson, Lane County resident

Re: Support for HB 2004 A

Date: 5/5/17

Please vote yes on HB 2004 A. This bill protects renters, is fair to landlords, and gives communities local control.

I am a resident of Eugene, and I know people who have been unfairly evicted. Fortunately, they had a strong enough social network, with friends willing to let them couch surf, that they were not forced to live on the street while trying to find an affordable place to rent. They were able to maintain their jobs, though it was more difficult without having a place to call home for a while.

Unfortunately, not all who are unfairly evicted are so fortunate. With rents growing unsustainably, unfair evictions are a major cause of homelessness. Even if the first unfair eviction does not cause homelessness, it too often leads to a downward spiral that eventually does. Prevention is nearly always more affordable and effective than attempting a cure.

Unlike what its detractors claim, HB 2004 bill gives substantial protection to landlords who have legitimate reasons for wanting a good tenant to leave.

Thank you for considering this.