

Sree Atluru MD:

We are Family Medicine physicians from Portland. We are part of a practice that cares for tens of thousands of patients in Multnomah, Columbia, and Washington county clinics, emergency rooms, and hospitals. We are also part of the Metropolitan Alliance for Common Good (MACG).

On a daily basis, we see how the housing crisis in Oregon negatively impacts our patients' health and their ability to effectively access and utilize the healthcare they need.

We strongly support policies that will promote access to high quality and stable housing for our patients, their families, and our community.

We support House Bill 2004 because we believe it will improve our community's health.

Jade Koide MD:

Sandy is a young woman with 2 children who became pregnant with her third child in 2016. She came to her first prenatal appointment of this pregnancy during her second trimester, but then she failed to come to the next 3 visits, during which she would have received crucial prenatal care, including testing for diabetes of pregnancy and monitoring the growth of her baby. When asked later why she didn't attend these appointments, she told me that her landlord had raised her rent with minimal notice, and her family was not able to afford the higher rent. Her husband took on a second job to try make rent, but it was not enough. They were evicted. They were forced to move in with her parents and share one vehicle, which prevented her from receiving the healthcare she needed to ensure a healthy pregnancy.

Alison Herson MD:

Carl ran into hard times with paying his rent. He had been homeless in the past, and having stable housing allowed him to manage his medical issues, which included diabetes, urinary problems, post-traumatic stress disorder, and panic disorder. There was refrigerator to store his insulin, easy access to a bathroom, and a safe haven away from PTSD triggers. These are benefits of a home that are often overlooked or taken for granted.

He reached out to a social service agency, who promised to pay his rent for 6 months. Unbeknownst to him, the agency abruptly closed his case and never sent any rent to his landlord. After getting an unexpected eviction notice, Carl went to multiple local emergency rooms over and over again because the impending eviction increased his anxiety around becoming homeless; he could not stop worrying about the impact it would have on his health. After going to multiple ERs, he was connected with a different social service agency, who agreed to subsidize his rent. With the guarantee of stable housing, he could focus on receiving consistent medical and mental health care, which ultimately helped him stay out of emergency rooms.

Matt Chan MD:

Remember what it's like to be 11 years old. Now imagine what it's like being 11 year old and homeless. Mark is that boy, and he is struggling in school. He suffers from attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, also known as ADHD, an already hard enough obstacle to overcome for a child. Like our other stories, his family was evicted from their apartment because they could not make rent on their apartment due to rising costs, and were forced to move out. The solution, and not a good one at that, was to move in with grandma, who lived 1 hour from his school. As a result, Mark is often late to his morning classes. He often ends up eating breakfast at school, or not eating at all. At his last doctor's appointment, he was not gaining weight. Since there is limited space at grandma's, Mark's sneakers were put in

storage. He only has boots to wear to school, so he can't participate in PE. This is another unfortunate instance of rising rent costs having ripple effects on our children and communities.

Supporting just-cause evictions and rent stabilization will ultimately improve the health of your constituents. It will allow people like Sandy to get the care needed during pregnancy. It will provide people like Carl with a stable environment to cope with their medical problems, rather than utilizing emergency room resources. It will help people like Mark get the education they need to fulfill their learning potential and find their productive role in our community. We ask for your support of House Bill 2004.