

## Rosenberg Corey

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**From:** Holly McGuire <holly@mcguirebarber.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 05, 2017 4:10 PM  
**To:** SHS Exhibits; Sen Courtney  
**Subject:** Please support HB2004

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

I am a homeowner. I just became one a month ago after a lifetime--fifty years--of being a renter. In the 13 years my husband and I rented here in Oregon, we felt an increasing pinch as rents became a greater and greater portion of our income. Despite moving here with the conviction that we would raise our family here and retire here--that this would be our forever home--the last few years of rapid rent increases and the incredible scarcity of rentals appropriate for families had us fearing that our forever home was a fantasy, and that we would be forced to move away from the state we have come to love. Our 8 year old daughter, who is adopted, who has spent her whole life here, and who, like many adopted individuals, has an extra need for stability and a sense of belonging, would be devastated by that fundamental upheaval of homeplace. She is also mixed race, and the gentrification of renting in Portland is also putting pressure on communities of color, communities that helped build Oregon and who should not be forced out so that wealthy homebuyers can become even more dominant in this market.

We got lucky--we found a wonderful, extremely small condominium in a co-housing community and were able to make the leap to ownership that we believe will allow us to fulfill our dream of living in Oregon for the rest of our lives. But for our communities to remain strong, all of our citizens need a place--and that includes renters. We--and I will always feel a part of this demographic--are citizens, workers, taxpayers. We don't get tax credits, we don't get the benefits of ownership like home equity lines, like the stability of knowing which neighborhood we'll be in for the next school year, like the respect of our owning neighbors who often never speak to us again after learning that we're "only renters." We struggle to put money away for future dreams because of the skyrocketing proportion of our incomes that are eaten up by rent increases.

Please believe in us and our places in this state. Please put in place this modest measure of protection.

Thank you,

Holly McGuire

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