

from the desk of Representative Kresa Hinson Leon



TO: 79th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FR: Legislative Report on Racial Equity Working

Group DA: 2017 Regular Session

RE: Vote YEA on HB 2004

This letter is to provide notice that HB 2004 is a Priority Bill that will be included in the 2017 Legislative Report on Racial Equity. Communities of color have identified HB 2004 as a Priority Bill and recommend a Yes vote to require just cause evictions after the first 6 months of tenancy and to allow for local rent stabilization programs. Final floor votes for Priority Bills will be included in the 2017 Legislative Report on Racial Equity.

In Oregon, rents are skyrocketing, families are being displaced from their homes, and many are struggling to find affordable housing. Communities of color are disproportionately impacted by the current housing crisis- often spending more than 30% or even 50% of their income on housing. Housing stability also impacts community wellbeing including educational outcomes, community health, access to jobs and transit, and overall quality of life. Protecting tenants by requiring a legal cause for evictions and allowing local governments the flexibility to address rising housing costs is a step in the right direction toward addressing racial disparities and improving economic stability for Oregonians of color. We hope you will join us in our collective efforts to advance racial equity in Oregon by supporting HB 2004.

Who we are: The 2017 Legislative Report on Racial Equity is a project of a Working Group of nonpartisan, community based organizations working to advance racial equity in Oregon. The Working Group includes the Coalition of Communities of Color, APANO, Basic Rights Oregon, Causa, Unite Oregon, Partnership for Safety and Justice, Western States Center and Oregon Voice. The project also includes an advisory committee of more than twenty organizations based in communities of color, immigrant/refugee communities, and allied organizations.

Sincerely,

Amanda Manjarrez, on behalf of the Coalition of Communities of Color and the Legislative Report on Racial Equity Working Group.