

Subject: Please support HB 2004A

Dear Oregon State Senators,

My name is Jess Daly. I am a student at Portland State University graduating this June from the Master of Public Policy program. I moved to Portland from Ashland, Oregon 2 years ago for the program. I am a responsible renter with consistent income. I have been forced through 2 no-cause evictions in the last 12 months. I am writing to support HB 2004 because Oregon's housing crisis must be addressed at this critical juncture. Renters are losing their homes for no reason due to no-cause evictions and extreme rent increases.

Oregon's Senators need to act now. We are in crisis. Losing your home is devastating. It effects all aspects of a person's life, economic health, socio-emotional well-being, security, and stability. Students can't study, parents can't provide the security of basic needs for kids, low-income workers are forced to the streets.

I searched for a home for 3 months during the initial move to Portland for grad school. The city was hovering around 1-2% vacancy the summer of 2015. I ended up moving into the living room of my friend's tiny 1-bedroom apartment across the street from PSU. I stayed there for 9 months due to complete lack of availability. In June of 2016, the owners put it up for sale and we both had to move.

Over the summer I had to leave Portland because it took 6 months to find a new place. In October 2016 (a week after classes had already started) I was finally able to move in to a house near 62<sup>nd</sup> and Holgate. It was an hour commute to PSU with traffic, but it was the closest thing in my budget, so I had to bring my car to Portland. The first term driving to PSU three days a week cost me an extra 200 dollars a month in parking alone, not to mention gas. Just 3 months later, I received a no-cause eviction *out of the blue* from the property acquisition company who bought the home. The home *was not even on the market*—we had no warning.

I was in my second to last term of grad school, in the middle of our relentless winter storm. I had to spend almost all of my income on housing over the next few months. My grades dropped significantly for the first time since entering my graduate program. I had to make academic sacrifices in order to execute my internship in Salem advocating for anti-poverty policy. I had to make sure I was working to pay for all the increased costs. I had to pay first, last, and deposit on a new place while paying rent at my current place and the costs of having to use car. All on my fixed student budget. My life was completely uprooted and I was financially, physically, intellectually, and emotionally exhausted.

I've invested a great deal of money in my education. I made a choice to bring my investment to PSU because they invested in me. I was offered a \$5,000 Dean's Award scholarship to attend PSU as a recruitment incentive. When universities and business invest in people who can't find a stable place to live it causes systemic problems. It's not good for retention, life-work balance, academic achievement, mental health, or economic growth. As we deal with consistent in-migration that is essential to the highly skilled jobs our 21<sup>st</sup> century business require, we are pushing our most vulnerable populations and students onto the street to make way for profits.

Please support HB 2004A to provide fairness and stability for the millions of Oregonians who are renters. 40% of Oregon's households are renters like me. We need protection from eviction without cause and extreme and sudden rent increases. Our senators must act now.

Thank you for your attention,

Jess Daly

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From the Desk of  
Sen. Michael Dembrow

