



Partners for a  
Hunger-Free Oregon

*Ending hunger before it begins.*

To: House Committee on Human Services and Housing  
From: Matt Newell-Ching, Public Affairs Director  
Subject: The Housing Crisis is Driving up Hunger in Oregon - Support HB 4007  
Date: February 6, 2018

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We envision an Oregon that is hunger-free, healthy and thriving.

Yet hunger in Oregon remains high. One in seven households in Oregon experience food insecurity. Oregon has the highest rate of hunger of any state in the Northwest. Why?

One major reason is because housing is increasingly unaffordable. .

**Renters in Oregon are seven times more likely to experience hunger than those who own a home<sup>1</sup>.** That's far worse than the national disparity – renters in the United States are three times more likely to experience hunger than homeowners. This disproportionately impacts people of color who – for generations in Oregon – were systematically denied the right to home ownership because of discriminatory housing policies.

**Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon urges passage of HB 4007** because Oregon needs more affordable housing and better opportunities for families to purchase their first home. HB 4007 would raise the Document Recording Fee from \$20 to \$75, and use the fee to increase the supply of affordable housing, help families purchase their first home, and provide assistance to renters.

We recognize there is no silver bullet to making housing affordable in Oregon. But the bottom line is that passing HB 4007 would mean fewer families would need to make the impossible choice between paying for rent or paying for food.

Together, we can build an Oregon where everyone has a safe, affordable, and stable place to call home.

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<sup>1</sup> Food Insecurity in Oregon and the U.S.: Uneven Recovery in the Midst of Overall Improvement (2014-2016); Edwards, October 2017. [https://appliedecon.oregonstate.edu/sites/agscid7/files/oregonhungerreport\\_28oct2017.pdf](https://appliedecon.oregonstate.edu/sites/agscid7/files/oregonhungerreport_28oct2017.pdf)