



House Economic Dev. and Small Business
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

February 6th, 2024

Chair Bynum, Vice-Chairs Nguyen and Diehl, and members of the Committee,

SETA is a non-profit, public service organization dedicated to renters' rights and interests. We provide free community resources, including our free Tenant Hotline, and we directly serve about 250 renter households every month through combinations of several programs.

SETA urges you to SUPPORT HB 4098. This bill establishes much-needed support for childcare programs in Oregon and goes about it in innovative ways.

As tenant advocates we realize it may not be immediately obvious that this bill falls within our wheelhouse. However, we support it for two primary reasons:

- 1) Renters in Oregon desperately need more housing options. Too many of us are forced to reside in substandard and inhumane conditions because we simply have no other housing options we can afford. HB 4098 establishes an innovative approach to childcare for apprentices in the construction industry. We believe this will boost apprenticeship graduation rates, result in more housing production capacity, and directly benefit a demographic that we serve with our programming.
- 2) A majority of callers to our Tenant Hotline every month are families with children. Childcare and housing costs being as astronomical as they are, many of these families lack disposable income and are one disaster or one paycheck away from homelessness. HB 4098 leverages federal dollars and brings new support for these families. We believe it is an anti-houselessness measure.

Again, we urge your support for HB 4098. It will not only help more housing get built, but it will also keep families with children from being shoved out of their homes and onto the streets.

If you'd like to connect with me, please reach out to tmorris@springfiedeugenetenantassociation.com. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim".

Timothy Morris

Executive Director

Springfield Eugene Tenant Association