



May 2, 2017

Dear Chair Gelser, Vice Chair Olsen, and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services,

On behalf of the Oregon Primary Care Association (OPCA), I respectfully request your support for HB 2004A. OPCA is a non-profit organization, with a mission to support Oregon's 32 community health centers, also known as federally qualified health centers, in leading the transformation of primary care to achieve health equity for all. Community health centers deliver integrated primary care, including dental and behavioral health services, to over **420,000 Oregonians annually**. Community health centers are providers within the CCO networks, providing care to some of Oregon's most vulnerable populations, including **one in four Oregon Health Plan members**.

Many of Oregon's community health centers serve patients without stable housing. Providers and care teams see firsthand how a lack of safe and affordable housing can lead to **poor health outcomes** and **increased cost to the healthcare system**. Individuals who don't have stable, secure places to call home are less likely to eat healthy diets, take medication as prescribed, and maintain jobs and/or school attendance – all leading to downstream health complications. HB 2004A helps create essential housing stability for renters by providing significant protections against no-cause evictions and allowing local jurisdictions to implement rent stabilization policies. **We need the Legislature to act to protect the 4 in 10 Oregonians who rent their homes.**

As HB 2004 moved through the House in its original form, legislators worked to address the concerns of both renters and landlords and proposed amendments that sought to balance these concerns. The amendments adopted in HB 2004A include compromises we believe are fair to landlords while still ensuring tenant's homes—and opportunity to reach full health potential—are protected.

We know that stable housing is critical to the health of the patients served at community health centers around the state. **We urge you to please support HB 2004A because everyone deserves a safe, stable place to call home.**

Thank you,

Laura Etherton  
Federal and State Policy Director