

To: Senate Committee on Human Services

From:

Date: May 3, 2017

Re: In support of HB 2004A to promote fairness and stability for renters

Chair Gelser, Vice-Chair Olsen, and Members of the Committee:

- **My name is Josué Peña-Juárez and I am Housing and Family Advocate for Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of housing protections for all Oregonians.**
- **My work as a housing and family advocate resides in SE Portland, in Earl Boyles Elementary within David Douglas School District. In my time in this position I have seen how families face many challenges of finding housing, maintaining community supports and being stable in an environment that constantly threatens families housing. Working in the school I have seen how students are effected in their education and affects their academic performance.**
- **Families are often confused once they have received notification of rising rent prices with no changes, modifications or updates to buildings. Families being asked to move with no cause, being in a place where they have been for years, have family, community and school supports. The number of units for families is limited and the few places where they are available are becoming increasingly unjustifiably expensive.**
- **Most recently I have seen a unit with several families raise the rent over \$200 per unit, a complex that has been boughten out by a bigger company. Families have been there for years and have sent their children across the street to attend school, families have been engaged with the schools, district and have enhacnced the culture of the neighborhood. Families that are now considering having to move further away, as they know that these prices will not be going down and the situation is not one that supports a family.**
- **I often see the faces of distress when families are considering what is best for the childrens education and their families stability. Families often try to stay as much as they can because of the strong connection to community and schools but all too often have to make the hard decision of prioritizing housing and disrupting their childrens**

education. Many times end up doubling up with another family, having more people than intended for a small apartment. Some of my clients end up couch surfing and homeless. Many wonder how this can be legal and what protections they have. The number of families getting displaced is rising and every week I hear of families not being able to afford their apartments and wondering what their housing looks like in the coming months.

- Vulnerable families are getting affected with limited incomes and I urge this committee to be in support of HB 2004A and protect Oregon families.