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

I am the Program Director of Community of Hope, a program in North Portland for homeless single-parent families. I also teach a RentWell class to the residents here and some outside our facility. In my work, I encounter many families struggling to find an affordable place to live. My heart goes out to those who are suddenly homeless because rent rose beyond what they could pay or they lost their home for reasons beyond their control after paying rent faithfully. The protections that HB 2004 offer are much needed.

In our current climate, it is very hard for families working minimum wage or just above to be able to afford a place. We have done what we can in extending the time they can stay at our facility, but that means that other families in need must wait even for the temporary home we offer.

Please pass this bill and help families and individuals find some relief in this challenging housing climate.

Sincerely,

*Linda Jo Devlaeminck*

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Program Director

Community of Hope