

Testimony of Momentum Alliance
In Support of HB2004,
May 5th 2017



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

On behalf of Momentum Alliance, I respectfully request your support for House Bill 2004- Just Cause Evictions. We are youth-led nonprofit whose mission is to inspire young people to realize their power individually and collectively. We are based in North Portland, an area where countless low-income residents and people of color -especially Black Portlanders, have experienced no-cause evictions.

As you know, Portland is experiencing a housing crisis. Due to the lack of affordable housing because of gentrification and other factors, many young people and their families are being displaced. We work with young parents who have had to move multiple times in the last few years due to random rent increases and no-cause evictions. This has negatively impacted their mental health, physical safety, and employment. We work with young people who are experiencing and transitioning from homelessness. We know that much of the trauma and suffering young people experience has to do with the lack of access to stable and affordable housing.

Access to stable and affordable housing is one of the most important factors determining our quality of life. It is incredibly challenging for students, young parents, families to pursue educational and professional opportunities when they do not have access to stable and affordable housing. This is a matter of survival.

Momentum Alliance supports HB 2004 because we know that Oregonians need access to affordable and stable housing for all families to thrive, for a stronger economy and for a healthier state. We hope that you will join us in support of House Bill 2004.

Sincerely,

Karla Castaneda
Program Manager