

Kate Brown
Governor



Oregon Commission for Women
"Advocating Equality and Diversity"
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Testimony in support of HB2004A
May 31st, 2017, Hearing Room D, 1:00pm
Senate Committee on Human Services

Chair Gelser, Vice Chair Olsen, members of the committee:

The Oregon Commission for Women, in its role as advocate for the women of Oregon, strongly supports HB2004A. We seek support of the bill because of the particular importance of housing stability and the disproportionate impact that the housing crisis is having on women, survivors of sexual or domestic violence, and children in the state of Oregon.

Oregon has one of the nation's highest rates of violence against women. Over a million Oregon women and girls have been victims of domestic or sexual violence and more. Oregon women face significant rates of housing instability. Women who rent are the most cost-burdened in the state.

We also believe that everyone should have a stable and decent place to call home. We know the impacts of displacement and economic displacement has on people, especially women, who are often the sole providers for their families.

In 2015, with little notice, my apartment complex raised my rent by 65%. As a young single woman who has student loan debt, I was forced to move. Thankfully I had my parents who were able to help offset the costs of moving by allowing me to return home briefly. Most Oregonians do not have the luxury of being able to find another affordable location within their means. The unknown world without rent stabilization creates scary and unpredictable financial situations for many families and young people throughout our state. The need for stabilization in rent has never been needed more urgently.

This bill in particular would provide single parent households' certainty and fairness for renters by requiring landlords to have a just cause for eviction after their first 6 months of tenancy. We believe this is critical to create stable and secure homes for single women. Oregon's current law does not provide protection or adequate fairness for many renters.

The OCFW has long recognized that the systemic impacts of displacement of women and the impacts to local economies. Displacement due to no-cause eviction has a serious impact on women/survivors of violence and their children. Often survivors get no-cause evictions because of discrimination based on the violence committed against them. Without stable housing, survivors and their children are at greater risk of abuse or homelessness.

We urge the committee to positively consider HB [2004A](#)

Sincerely,

Nikki Fisher, OCFW Commissioner

OR Commission for Women

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