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May 3, 2017

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

On behalf of Coastal Family Health Center (Coastal) I respectfully request your support for HB 2004A. Coastal is a non-profit organization, with a mission to lead, with the courage to care, the determination to promote personal growth, and the compassion to champion the cause of those who have no voice. Coastal provides comprehensive medical care, including integrated registered dietitians and social services to more than 5,000 patients in the Astoria area.

Coastal providers and staff are seeing patients every day who struggle with managing their chronic health issues because of a lack of 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.

At Coastal, we recognize that stable housing is critical to the health of our patients. We urge you to support HB 2004A because everyone deserves a safe, stable place to call home.

Thank you,

Carlos Olivares
CEO