

Chair Fahey, Vice-Chair Winsley Campos, Vice-Chair Morgan, Members of the Committee,

Re: Support for SB 282A, Tenant COVID Protections

I am a renter and a mother. Thank you for taking the time to hear our testimony regarding SB 282A, which provides much-needed protections for tenants following the expiration of the eviction moratorium.

I lost my job as Lead Parking Attendant in March, 2020. I wasn't able to return to work until October and the odd jobs I took on didn't cut it. I had to stop paying my electric bill and cut out essential insurances. Even so, I fell behind on rent. While I've been able to access some rental assistance, I am still behind both \$3,000 on rent and another \$1,300 on my electric bill. I support SB 282A because it will stabilize renter households like myself. It ensures that there is time for the millions in state and federal rental assistance to reach landlords and resolve back rent debt. This assistance will be paid directly to landlords in order to cover back-due, current, or future rent. SB 282A has already received bipartisan support in the Senate, but we need your support as well.

I am a single mother with three children all living at home, one of whom is disabled. We've all had to cut back in order to get by. We're scrambling to get back on our feet. SB 282 would help us do that by giving tenants and landlords both time for assistance funds to be distributed.

There are health and sanitation issues in my house that have escalated over the last year—mice, roaches. I've had to carry the weight of any repairs and vermin myself. On top of this my landlord has been reaching out every week about my back rent. It's so stressful—people shouldn't have to live like this. Plus, our Black and Brown neighbors are at the greatest risk of lifelong harm from the COVID evictions. Discriminatory housing policies have made homeownership difficult and inaccessible, leaving people of color at higher risk of rental evictions even as higher rates of COVID exposure are leaving people ill and economically stressed. SB 282A would give me the time to pay my back rent and look for safer and healthier housing for me and my family. The key is that I, like many Oregonian renters, just need more time.

If SB 282A doesn't pass, I'd likely face eviction in July. I am thankful that lawmakers have been listening to our voices thus far, but they can't stop now. After an incredibly trying and difficult year, Oregon desperately needs the protections from SB 282A. No one deserves to be made homeless because of COVID. I urge you to work towards swift passage of SB 282A. Thank you.

Tosha Morgan-Platt
Portland, OR