



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Testimony in Support of HB 2842

February 11, 2021

Chair Fahey, Vice Chair Campos and Morgan, and members of the committee,
Testimony

My name is Khanh Pham, State Representative for House District 46. I am honored to testify in support of HB 2842 as a co-chief sponsor alongside Representative Power and Representative Marsh.

HB 2842 establishes the Healthy Home Repair Fund to provide financial assistance to low-income households and landlords to fund projects that maximize energy efficiency, extend the usable life of residences, and improve the health and safety of the occupants.

The wildfires last summer engulfed much of Oregon in toxic air, some of the worst in the world, and presented the greatest health threat to our low-income, rural, and tribal communities who couldn't escape the dangerous levels of particulates in their own homes.

Installing smoke filtration systems is an expense many Oregon families cannot afford. "Repair and rehabilitation" actions under this program includes installation of a smoke filtration system or an air purification system or other actions to improve indoor air quality. In the midst of the growing threat of wildfires in our state and the economic pressures on Oregon families, we have the opportunity to close this gap and ensure that low-income Oregonians can make necessary repairs to their homes to prepare for future disasters.

The Healthy Home Repair Fund would also allow families to address public health risks that can be mitigated by making repairs to their homes. For example, Radon abatement, which is the second highest cause of lung cancer, behind smoking.

Energy efficiency has clear environmental benefits but energy efficiency also has economic benefits. This program helps create jobs and lowers utility bills by creating a fund for making home weatherization an affordable option.

The process for this grant program is simple, and the Healthy Homes program leans on the expertise of the DEQ, the Oregon Health Authority, and Oregon Housing and Community Services. Oregonians have spent more time in their homes than we have ever before. The Legislature must ensure that each Oregonian has a healthy and comfortable place to reside.

Healthy Homes is about ensuring all Oregonians can afford the electricity they use, and breathe easier in their homes. Please join me in supporting HB 2842. Thank you.