

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

Re: Support for SB 282A, Tenant COVID Protections

I am here to testify in support of tenant stability. I am a renter in Salem and I am one of the tens of thousands of Oregon renters who fell behind in rent because of COVID-19. I am here to offer my strong support for SB 282A, which provides needed protections to tenants after the eviction moratorium expires on June 30.

I support SB 282A because it will stabilize working-class renter households, like mine. I work in construction but haven't been able to work during the pandemic. I've been stressed for a while but now that I'm four months behind on rent, it's gotten really bad. I have a young daughter. I also support my stepdad, my cousin, and my caretaker who all live with us. We've been trying to get by as best as we can but we can't make ends meet. We've had our water and our electricity shut off. I'm terrified that I won't be able to take care of my family.

SB282A ensures that there is time for state and federal rent assistance to reach landlords and resolve back rent debt. SB 282A, a bill that comes to your committee with strong bipartisan support, will help us through this pandemic without suffering permanent damage.

I see people coming together and trying to take care of each other as much as possible during these unprecedented times of COVID and wildfires. I know other families are struggling like mine. It is heart wrenching to think families can be evicted because they took in a friend or family in need. SB282 would mean that landlords can't kick people out who need to share housing during an emergency. This provision is temporary, and only lasts through February, a reasonable provision while we get through this crisis. Our communities need to be able to take care of one another.

As we move into a new stage of the pandemic, there are ongoing challenges facing our most vulnerable communities. Oregon renters who have faced setbacks during COVID have shown our resilience through one of the most difficult times our state has ever faced. Lawmakers have come together time and time again during the pandemic to keep people safe and in their homes. SB 282A will continue that work and keep families like mine with a roof over our heads. I urge you to pass it quickly.

Thank you.

Monei Monroe  
Salem, OR