



Taking action for basic human needs.



To: House Committee on Housing
From: Human Services Coalition of Oregon
Date: April 27, 2021
Re: Support for SB 282A

Chair Fahey and members of the committee:

The Human Services Coalition of Oregon supports SB 282A, to ensure tenants have the stability they need to stay housed through the COVID emergency and in the years to come.

For over three decades, HSCO has convened like-minded advocates in an effort to fight for the policy development and resources necessary to support vulnerable Oregonians. HSCO is made up of over 100 individuals and organizations that work together to develop effective tax, education, health care, housing, human services and economic development policy that together make Oregon a better place for all. Housing is a foundational part of keeping our communities safe and able to thrive. The realities of the pandemic threaten to have lasting consequences for the housing stability of far too many Oregonians.

Despite the relatively rosy picture of Oregon's economic forecast, we know damage from this pandemic will affect low-income communities for years to come. The recession has made the already existing economic inequality exponentially worse. We must do everything we can to help support renters struggling to make ends meet to avoid homelessness. Communities need more time to pay back rent once the eviction moratorium expires. In addition, an eviction or a late payment can make it almost impossible for renters to access housing - if we don't act, the COVID pandemic will impact families for years to come. They need protection from COVID-era black marks on credit and rental history, and protection from landlord retaliation. And during this ongoing emergency, they need the ability to share housing when it's necessary, without risking eviction.

We need to ensure Oregon's recovery doesn't leave anyone out. Working mothers, BIPOC Oregonians and low-income workers have borne the economic brunt of the pandemic both because they are most likely to have lost income, are more likely to rent their homes or are more likely to have contracted COVID. Without safe and stable housing, it will be almost impossible for many to recover.

SB 282A is a critical bill for Oregon to minimize the damage caused by the pandemic. We urge your support.

HSCO Co-Chairs

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