

Chair Fahey, Vice-Chair WInsvey Campos, Vice-Chair Morgan, Members of the Committee,
Re: Support for SB 282A, Tenant COVID Protections

I am a tenant and here to testify in support of tenant stability. Thank you for taking up SB 282A. I strongly support this bill, which provides essential protections to tenants after the eviction moratorium expires on June 30, 2021.

I'm an in-home caretaker I make \$15.77/hour. I have diabetes that makes me highly vulnerable to COVID, so my work options have been limited and I've only found work for two days a week. When COVID first hit, I started paying my rent months in advance in case I lost my job. Even so, I'm not making enough to live. I've been late on many of my bills, accumulating late charges. It all adds up and I've been worried about how I'll keep my lights and my internet on. I've been homeless before, and I'm especially scared that my son—a single dad with a one-year old baby—is at risk of losing his home.

Homelessness is growing across Oregon, especially in rural areas like mine. SB 282A will stabilize renter households, and ensure that there is time for state and federal rent assistance to reach landlords and resolve back rent debt. This bill comes to your committee with strong bipartisan support in the Senate, after significant work on amendments that resulted in no opposition to the bill. SB 282A will keep countless tenants like myself and my family off of the streets.

During COVID, many renters have had to double up to care for family members or simply to share expenses because they cannot continue to pay rent. That could easily be my own family's situation. During this ongoing crisis, it's only fair that landlords shouldn'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.

The passage of SB 282A would mean the world to us.

Prompt passage of SB 282A is essential to ensure that tenants and landlords alike can benefit from the more than \$500 million in federal rental assistance that will be distributed in the coming months. These payments are made directly to landlords and can pay back-due, current, or future rent. We all need time to access these funds and begin to overcome the impacts of COVID-19.

As we move into the next stage of the COVID pandemic, we must acknowledge the ongoing difficulty that continues to face our most vulnerable communities. Oregon renters who have faced COVID-era financial setbacks have shown 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 we urge its swift passage.

Thank you.
Maryanne Kelley
North Bend, OR