

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

Re: Support for SB 282A, Tenant COVID Protections

Oregon lawmakers passed eviction assistance and the eviction moratorium in December, legislation that helped Oregonians enormously. Now, we need some additional assistance to keep us on our feet.

I've been employed my entire adult life but I lost my job during COVID. I've never been on so many interviews before—the job market is intense right now, even for someone like me with a lot of job experience. During this period, even while buckling down on my finances, I fell behind several thousand in rent. I was able to access some rental assistance, which helped me get by, but I need more time to cover the remaining back rent I owe. Even now that I'm employed again, I'm making half of what I was previously. The grace period SB 282 would provide would be such a relief for me.

I am a single mom with a two-year old daughter and my best friend lives with us. This extension is an absolute necessity to help us and our communities stabilize and recover.

I used to work for homeless services, so I understand the impact of being barred from housing because of eviction or credit. It completely stops people from moving forward, and I wouldn't want that to happen to anyone due to these unimaginable circumstances. Oregon was already struggling with homelessness but the current crisis of reduced wages, increasing costs, and rental issues during COVID was the tipping point for many of us. SB 282A would prevent the impacts of COVID from lasting a lifetime for vulnerable renters.

Housing is not a luxury; it's a human right. Pass SB 282A and help Oregonians keep a roof over our heads.

Jasmine
Beaverton, OR