

March 4, 2021
Subject: Yes on SB 282-1

Chair Jama, Co-Chair Linthicum, members of the Committee,

I have three children. I'm here today to speak for so many Oregon mothers, trying to keep a roof over their children's head during this pandemic.

I'm so grateful that the eviction moratorium has kept my family off the streets so far. I'm afraid for what will happen when July comes if we can't pay all of our back rent. We haven't been able to work since COVID and have fallen behind thousands in rent. I have three young boys: 5, 3, and 1.5 years. We've had to accrue other debt and haven't even been able to pay our water or electric bills. Even without paying these bills, we're still running out of food for the kids at the end of the month.

Families like mine need more time to pay our back rent. We're still struggling month to month to put food on the table, I don't know how I could possibly pay everything by July. I'm so scared of my boys ending up on the streets. Working mothers like me have felt some of the worst of the pandemic's economic impacts. It's going to take a long time for the economy to recover fully. If I can't go back to work, I can't pay my rent.

We're doing all that we can, we just need more time. I am asking my lawmakers to keep their promise to us. The promise that we wouldn't lose our homes due to circumstances beyond our control. Please pass SB 282-1 and give us the time we need to get on our feet.

Thank you.

Christy Hernandez
Salem, OR