

March 4, 2021

Subject: Yes on SB 282-1

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

I am one of the tens of thousands of Oregon renters who is struggling during the COVID pandemic.

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. I'm having panic attacks and my health is deteriorating because of stress. We need more protections--protections like SB 282-1--to get 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. I know other families are struggling like mine. It is heart wrenching that families can be evicted because of occupancy limit violations during COVID, just because they've taken in a friend family member in need. Our communities need to be able to take care of one another through this crisis. Renters need more time to pay back rent. Without these protections there are going to be a lot more homeless people. Families like me. All of these people could be barred from future housing because of stains on their rental history.

There aren't jobs right now. People are really sick. The COVID pandemic is already impacting low income and communities of color at disproportionate rates. Renters are behind on our rent and we're just trying to get by to the next month. Lawmakers need to pass protections that don't make these impacts from COVID-19 last forever. The eviction moratorium has been a lifeline for us. Please don't risk our housing now. Pass SB 282-1.

Thank you.
Monei Monroe
Salem, OR