



Date: March 4, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Housing and Development

Re: Support for SB 282-1

The Oregon Education Association represents over 41,000 educators and education service professionals across the state, from pre-k to the community college level. Daily, our members see the impacts of food and housing insecurity, poverty, and systemic racism. Dealing with any of these issues in their lives, make it harder for students to learn and thrive, and SB 282-1 would help students, their families, and community members who face housing insecurity. That is why OEA supports SB 282-1 and urges its passage.

There is not a community in this state that has not been affected by Covid-19. Loss of jobs, childcare, and access to services created by the pandemic, has created a multi-faceted crisis that our community has not faced in almost 100 years. Loss of housing would only compound the economic, social and health catastrophes the state already faces. It is critical that every level of government do everything in its power to mitigate housing insecurity in any way it can to ensure that these crises do not get worse.

Furthermore, housing insecurity and Covid-19 disproportionately affect BIPOC communities, making protection against housing insecurity a clear racial justice issue; and failure to act would only serve to further systemic racism that has been a part of our housing system for generations.

That is why the components of SB 282-1 are so critical:

- Extended repayment period will help smooth out the crisis for families.
- Protecting tenant's future rental opportunities ensures families are not penalized for a pandemic and economic crisis they are only victims of.
- Allowing the sharing of resources ensures families can support their communities until folks make it back on their feet. And,
- Protecting against retaliation and trumped up for-cause notices ensures that folks have the safety net they need.

Even once Oregonians are vaccinated, the fallout from this pandemic will take years to overcome. Continued investment in critical services from education to food, from health care to housing, will be critical to the healing process for our communities, and SB 282-1 is a critical step in shoring up our state, and the tenants within it.

OEA urges passage of SB 282-1.