



March 4, 2021

Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Linthicum, and members of the committee,

**The Fair Shot For All Coalition strongly supports SB 282-1 to ensure tenants and landlords have the protections they need during the COVID-19 Pandemic.** This bill will stabilize renter households, and ensure that there is time for state and federal rent assistance to reach landlords and resolve back rent debt.

Fair Shot For All is a coalition of community based organizations and labor unions fighting for economic justice. We are deeply concerned about the impact of COVID-19 on our communities who identify as Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC), immigrants, women, LGBTQ+, and low-wage workers, who are disproportionately sick and dying during this pandemic. We are also disproportionately impacted by the economic fallout from this pandemic, and will feel the health and economic impacts of this crisis longer because of historic and ongoing systemic racism and discrimination.

The housing challenges we face today are exacerbated by a history of discriminatory policy decisions and business practices over the last century. Our state limited where people of color, especially Black Oregonians, could live and buy property. When African Americans moved to Portland to take jobs in the shipyards during World War II, the combined actions of government officials, real estate agents, and bankers pushed Black, Native and Asian families into specific areas of North and Northeast Portland: Banks, enabled by maps drawn by the federal government, refused to make home loans in Black neighborhoods. Real estate agents refused to sell homes in White neighborhoods to Black families. Appraisers artificially devalued the area's housing stock, limiting the ability of Black families who did own homes to build wealth. City officials changed zoning maps to limit the types of housing available in predominantly White neighborhoods.

**We can see the legacy of this racial discrimination today in lower homeownership**

**rates and rent burden for Black families.** Just 32% of African-Americans in Multnomah County owned homes in 2010, compared to 60% of Whites in the county. Furthermore, 69% of African-American renters in Multnomah County were spending more than 30% of their income on housing compared to 50.7% of Whites in 2010 (American Community Survey).

**And renters in every corner of our state were already rent burdened.** According to the American Communities Survey, in every house district in our state, more than 1/3 of renters were paying more than 30% of their income toward rent - even before the pandemic. And in many house districts across the state, this figure is much higher, with close to 54-62% of renters rent burdened. Yet, this Pulse survey shows that Oregonians are going to great lengths to pay their rent - even during the moratorium - using savings, making sacrifices, borrowing money. We know this is how the cycle of homelessness and poverty is sustained. An eviction or a late payment can make it almost impossible for Renters to access housing.

If we don't act now, the COVID pandemic will produce another generation of health and wealth gaps for our communities. We urge you to pass SB 282-1 to support housing and economic stability for Oregonians.

About Fair Shot -

Our coalition is governed by a steering committee that includes: Asian Pacific Network of Oregon (APANO), Basic Rights Oregon (BRO), Causa Oregon, Family Forward Oregon, Oregon AFL-CIO, Oregon AFSCME, Oregon Education Association (OEA), Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN), Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon (PPAO), Service Employees International Union (SEIU), United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 555, Unite Oregon, and Urban League of Portland. For a full list of our coalition members and priorities visit [www.fairshotoregon.org](http://www.fairshotoregon.org).