

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

Re: Support for SB 282-1, Tenant COVID Protections

My name is Kaia Sand and I am the executive director of Street Roots. Thank you for taking up SB 282-1, which I strongly support.

We work with people who are experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity. Eviction is the fulcrum between the two -- pushing people out on the streets, or, once they get housing, looming as a likely possibility. Our organization is often working with people in moments of crisis, desperately looking at the possibility of living on the streets. It's harrowing.

When back rent comes due, it very well could push people onto the streets, and renters who are Black, Indigenous and other people of color will suffer the largest brunt of reality. We need to do everything we can so that a tidal wave of further homeless does not, in fact, engulf us. I urge you to pass SB 282-1.

Thank you for your work.