

March 4, 2021

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

My name is Patti Whitney-Wise, retired ED of Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon/Oregon Hunger Task Force and a current member of the EMO Public Policy Advocacy Committee.

I am writing in strong support of SB 282-1, which will keep vulnerable renters housed as they regain jobs and pay back rent.

The pandemic has created a once in a lifetime crisis for so many in our state, country, and world. The numbers of people in poverty and hungry have skyrocketed as have the number of people without homes.

I urge you to pass this bill so that less, rather than more, families are left out on the streets this summer. We all need the rest of this year to get vaccinated, re-enter the work market in some semblance of normal, and help our children to readjust to a new normal. HB 282-1 is the humanitarian response to a very real threat to so many of our families.

I write to you from the perspective of a parent, church, and community member who wants our state to shine as a place of nurture and success for every family. I concur with EMO's Statement of Principles: "We are called to "love justice" and to act in solidarity with those on the margins."

Please pass SB 282-1.