



Date: February 10th, 2021

To: House Committee on Housing

Re: OEA support for HB 2842, Healthy Homes

Chair Fahey and members of the committee,

The Oregon Education Association represents 41,000 education professionals across the state of Oregon. From early learning to community college, from teachers to professors to education service professionals, OEA's members span the entire spectrum of education. And as an organization we believe that HB 2842 is critical for the future of Oregon and its students.

From a missed day here or there due to asthma flare ups, to disrupted learning due to wildfires, to the emotional toll brought on by an inability to cover basic utilities, our members are witness to the affects that environmental and health crises are having on our students every day.

The healthy homes program is a critical step to help our students, their communities, and the state mitigate these crises.

For many students it will impact their health in a positive manner as environmental health risks are mitigated; it will allow their families to spend less on basic utilities; and it will improve all the benefits that derive from those, such as reducing the number of sick days they need.

Amongst the many benefits for our communities, HB 2842 will create local jobs, reduce poor air quality, and improve education outcomes.

And for our state it will reduce the public burden on health care and environmental disaster mitigation as this policy works to curve those crises.

Furthermore, the Healthy Homes program is a small step towards correcting the generational impacts of institutional racism we as a state and community have perpetuated. By focusing on low-income families who need the support most, we will ensure that we are righting some of the wrongs put upon Black, indigenous and people of color over our history.

For our students, their families, and our state we urge that you pass HB 2842 out of committee with a do pass recommendation.

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