

Dear Chair Fahey, Vice-Chair Campos, and Vice-Chair Morgan and members of the Committee,

My name is Matt Stevenson, I live in Portland and currently attend Cleveland High School. I support HB 2842 because health starts at home. People living in energy inefficient homes experience mold, cold weather, and an inability to take refuge from wildfire smoke and bad outdoor air quality, which leads to sick days, hospital visits, and many other negative health consequences. Over this past year, it has become extremely obvious clear that HB 2842 needs to be passed so that the many people who are suffering can have some relief.

Currently, fifty-four percent of Oregonians live in housing built before 1978. This is inefficient and the upkeep of these houses is taxing on individuals and families. All Oregonians need safe homes and clean air to breathe in those homes. In 2016 Oregonians spent millions on asthma-related hospital visits and currently a respiratory virus is killing hundreds of thousands of people. Numerous research shows that people who breathe polluted air are at greater risk of becoming ill with COVID-19 and getting asthma, we need this bill to drastically improve lives, reduce medical costs, and stress on doctors.

Thank you, Chair Fahey, Vice-Chair Campos, and Vice-Chair Morgan, and members of the Committee for supporting HB 2842

Sincerely,

Matt Stevenson