



June 15, 2021

Dear Chair Smith Warner, Vice-Chairs Drazan and Holvey and Members of House Rules,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide support for SB 278, to give renters who have applied for rental assistance a 60 day to provide the time needed for the application processing for rental assistance to be completed.

Oregon AFSCME Council 75 represents employees who provide housing services and supports at a variety of employers - counties, cities and non-profits. We also represent case managers and other human services employees who help the people they are supporting get connected to and maintain stable housing. They all know and fully agree that stable housing is the foundation for ensuring that people can live their lives successfully.

Oregon's housing specialists are scrambling to meet the astounding number of applications for rental assistance. One AFSCME member responded to my inquiry that their employer had them, and one other regular full time staff, 1 manager, 2 limited duration and 4 temporary employees working many hours of overtime to process 2,477 COVID rental assistance applications in two weeks. They are still working to process more and help people with the needed paperwork to let landlords know that they are working to get assistance.

The application process takes time and SB 278 allows for tenants that have applied for but not yet received their assistance a 60 day cushion to ensure they are not evicted, when indeed help was on the way.

Please pass SB 278.

Respectfully,

Eva RippetEAU
Political Coordinator AFSCME Council 75