



February 11th, 2021

Chair Fahey, Vice Chairs Campos and Morgan, and Members of the Committee,

The Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO) writes to you to express our strong support for HB 2842 in creating a Healthy Homes program. We are members of a strong state-wide coalition made up of environmental justice advocates from both urban and rural parts of Oregon. The Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon is a statewide, grassroots organization, uniting Asians and Pacific Islanders to achieve social justice. We use our collective strengths to advance equity through empowering, organizing and advocating with our communities.

Especially as Oregon experiences increasingly dangerous wildfire seasons while also navigating a global respiratory pandemic, every Oregonian should have a healthy home to live in where they can breathe clean air and are able to afford their utility bills.

This is not currently the case - we know that 54% of Oregonians live in housing built before 1978 that is energy inefficient and in need of repairs, weatherproofing, and upgrades for disaster resiliency. Families with low-incomes, families living in rural and tribal communities, and individuals that identify as Black, Indigenous, Latinx, or people of color are the most impacted due to decades of redlining and other discriminatory practices. Consequently, our communities are more likely to experience sick days and hospital visits caused by mold, cold weather, asthma flare ups, and the inability to take refuge from bad air quality. All of this is exacerbated by, and more dangerous during, a respiratory pandemic.

HB 2842 creates a Healthy Homes program at the Oregon Healthy Authority to provide grants to eligible entities that provide financial assistance to persons in low income households to repair and rehabilitate their residences and to landlords to repair and rehabilitate dwelling units.

Creating and funding a Healthy Homes program creates more equity for our communities and makes good fiscal sense for our state. HB 2842 will: 1) help low-income families spend less money on heating and cooling; 2) create good local jobs in retrofitting and repairs; 3) provide a refuge from increasingly bad outdoor air quality; 4) reduce burden on hospitals and families by supporting better respiratory health; and 5) reduce the number of sick days for both adults and kids.

Please vote yes on HB 2842 to help build an Oregon where everyone lives in a home that is healthy and safe.

Sincerely,  
Richa Poudyal, Policy Director, APANO