



December 12, 2021

To Co-Chairs Fahey, Beyer, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Caitlyn Kennedy Young, and I am asking for your support to keep our community safe and housed while we are still experiencing lingering effects of the pandemic. We need an extension to the protections of SB 278 to allow more time for approved payments to make it to property owners and managers, as well as a continuation of the elongated 10-day notice of nonpayment, and finally, we need the legislative body to approve more funding for payments to property managers. These actions can help tens of thousands of Oregonian stay housed while they are still finding their new normal.

I oversee the tenant education program, Rent Well, which is owned by Transition Projects. This program teaches tenants about their rights and responsibilities as renters. Regardless of all the skills, tools, and resources that this class can offer, there is currently no tool greater than an extension on the time to pay COVID-related debts and more money in which to pay them.

I know that this situation is messy, and the topic is heated. There are so many individuals hurting that are both tenants and owners during this. However, this bill gives individuals who are renting their homes and do not have additional savings to support themselves the time and resources to repay their landlord, which is desperately needed. Nationwide, pre-pandemic, if an individual experienced an emergency that would cost them \$500 or more, six out of 10 individuals would go into debt to try to resolve that situation. Though I believe that many Oregon renters who could keep up on rent have, I can imagine that any back rent that is owed, unfortunately, would be much more than \$500. We cannot leave nearly half of our Oregon residents with the fear of an eviction come March 1st.

No one should be evicted for non-payment while their rent assistance is on the way. You have the power to not let Oregon's statewide housing crisis get worse. Please use that power to do the right thing for our communities and neighbors. We must continue to ensure access to rent assistance and act to prevent the generational harm caused by housing displacement, especially in Oregon's Black, Indigenous, and communities of color. Who have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID pandemic, and thus, need to seek rent assistance at higher rates, and are at greater risk of eviction.¹ I encourage your support to pass the measures necessary to continue to supporting aide and relief for Oregonians. Thank you so much for your time and consideration on this matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caitlyn Kennedy Young". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Caitlyn Kennedy Young | Senior Manager of Landlord-Tenant Services

Transition Projects

from homelessness to housing

¹[OHA Covid-19 Weekly Report](#), Dec. 1, 2021, OHCS Dashboard