

Paul L Evans
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 20



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 16, 2021

House of Representatives
Oregon State Legislature
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Ref: HB 2475A-Engrossed (Majority and Minority Reports)

Dear Colleagues:

I urge passage of HB 2475A-Engrossed. We must not allow partisanship to prevent us from considering all good ideas. We need to focus upon the merits of each, every piece of legislation put before us. Both pieces of legislation (the bill sent to the floor as well as the Minority Report) provide a critical tool for assisting families struggling to navigate the consequences of the past year and a half: global contagion, economic shutdowns, and historically devastating wildfires have pushed our working families to the brink of bankruptcy.

Working Oregonians deserve the relief offered in both bills. Although I believe the A-Engrossed version (supported by the majority of the committee members) reflects a more strategic approach to assistance through an expansion of advocacy options for low-income Oregonians, the Minority Report as a stand-alone bill would improve the status quo. Accordingly, I would vote for all of the above if I was able to be present in the Capitol today.

Unfortunately, out of an abundance of caution (and upon the advice of colleagues and staff from both parties), I am remaining away from the Capitol for another few days to ensure I do not inadvertently contribute to contagion spread. Recently, I have been fighting symptoms that can be related to COVID-19, so I began self-quarantine and am not-so-patiently awaiting test results.

Please know that I believe Oregonians want us to act in a bipartisan, bicameral fashion. I welcome the opportunity to consider Minority Reports that offer sound policy alternatives. Together we can get through this challenging time, but only together.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul L. Evans".