

JUN 22 2021



VOTE YES ON HOUSE BILL 2842-B: SUPPORT HEALTHY HOMES FOR ALL OREGONIANS

From the desk of Representative Mark Owens

Dear Colleagues,

I urge you to join me in supporting HB 2842-B, the Healthy Homes bill.

In 2020, it became even more clear that living in a healthy home is essential. People living in energy inefficient homes experience sick days and hospital visits caused by mold, cold weather, and an inability to take refuge from bad outdoor air quality. This is even more dangerous during a respiratory pandemic: research shows that people who breathe unhealthy air are at greater risk of severe cases of COVID-19. In 2017, Oregonians spent \$28 million on asthma-related hospital visits. Additionally, energy bills are high for families heating a drafty house. Our housing quality problem is harming everyday people and putting a burden on our healthcare system. This is not just a health problem: 32 percent of children live in energy burdened homes and asthma is the leading cause of missed school days.

Oregon has the opportunity to drastically improve lives through HB 2842-B. The bill will create a Healthy Homes Program and appropriate \$10 million to a Healthy Homes Repair Fund within the Oregon Health Authority. The program will distribute grants to local governments, local housing and health authorities, nonprofit organizations, community groups, and tribal governments to provide home repairs and retrofits to low income households and people living with disabilities or health or environmental challenges. It also creates an Interagency Task Force on Healthy Homes to ensure better coordination between agencies this work and better outcomes for Oregonians who need home repairs.

Sincerely,

IN SUPPORT:

