

Subject: Yes on SB 282-1

Chair Jama, Co-Chair Linthicum, members of the Committee,

I am one of the tens of thousands of Oregonians who is a renter and has struggled financially during the COVID pandemic.

I am so grateful for the work that has happened so far to protect tenants. The eviction moratorium is the only reason that my girlfriend and I have a roof over our heads.

It has been a lifelong dream of mine to return to the Oregon coast, and now I live in my home in Yachats. Because of COVID, I've lost most of my work over the last year. A couple months ago, my girlfriend and I both got sick with COVID. With inconsistent work and being sick, we've fallen behind several months in rent and it's really stressful. I'm scared that the more we fall behind the more money we'll owe at once, and it'll be impossible. I might lose my home just because I got COVID and fell behind on rent. I can't imagine what it would feel like to get a letter in the mail, an eviction notice, that says this is no longer my home and good luck on the streets. The additional time that SB 282-1 would give me to pay my back rent and access some of the federal assistance money would be a lifesaver. It could allow me to stay in my beloved home, and I'd be so grateful.

We need to make sure that Oregon's recovery process doesn't leave anyone out. Tenants like myself, as well as working families, BIPOC renters, and blue-collar workers who have borne the brunt of the pandemic. We need to protect our entire community. There are dim prospects for recovering lost income and it will be some time before employment rates return to normal. As nearly half a billion dollars of state and federal tenant and landlord assistance are being distributed, we must ensure that people have time to access assistance, they aren't unfairly evicted after the moratorium ends, and that a temporary setback during COVID doesn't make it impossible for them to rent in the future.

Please pass SB 282-1 and allow me and my neighbors time to get caught up and keep a roof over our heads. Thank you.

Austin Orth
Yachats, Oregon