



Senate Committee on Housing and Development
Testimony in Support of SB 282 -1 Amendment
Andrea Meyer, Director of Government Relations
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AARP is pleased to support SB 282-1 to extend COVID related tenant protections until March 2022. This is critical legislation and we urge its passage.

AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan social change organization with a nationwide membership of nearly 38 million and 503,000 in Oregon. We work to improve quality of life for all as we age, strengthen our communities, and fight for the issues that matter to Oregon families. An important aspect of our work in Oregon is advocating for livable and age-friendly communities, including expanding housing options and ensuring access to affordable, safe, secure, and accessible homes for Oregonians of all ages and abilities.

Critical Need in Oregon: Even before the pandemic, Oregon communities lacked affordable, accessible, and varied housing options. The pandemic, wildfires and floods have effected families across Oregon and disproportionately impacted older adults, people of color, and low-income individuals. According to the state Office of Economic Analysis, job prospects for low-income Oregonians “remain dim” during the recovery and we will not be back to full employment until 2023.

Solution: In December 2020, we supported extending the eviction moratorium through June 2021 and urged for more time to pay back rent. Today, we urge you to extend the back-rent repayment grace period and notice through February 2022. Without the extension, many more Oregonians could lose their homes at the end of June 2021 when the current moratorium ends.

Adopt the -1 Amendment: We also support the additional tenant protection measures included in SB 282-1, including: screening and sealing protections and credit history protections so that tenants are not penalized for the devastating COVID economic crisis in the future and prevented from securing stable housing.

On behalf of over half million AARP members ages 50+ statewide, we urge you to pass SB 282 with the -1 amendment and help make our state an age-friendly and livable place for people of all ages, abilities, races and incomes.