

I am writing in support of SB 282. This pandemic has been devastating and the people most affected are low-income renters, many of whom are frontline workers who have been dealing with increased risk or people whose jobs have been put on hold indefinitely because they cannot easily transition to a work-from-home model.

The pandemic continues to negatively effect people's incomes, far beyond what anyone was prepared for, with shockingly little assistance. As we continue to fight for better resources for financial stability, one thing remains clear: no one should lose their housing as a result of hardships suffered during this pandemic. Demanding payment of back rent while the state is still under any kind of state of emergency or pandemic-related restrictions is unrealistic and cruel. Tenants need more time to catch up on rent, without fear of eviction or retaliation of any kind from landlords. The pandemic has already forced many people, including myself, to deplete hard-earned savings just to get by. Asking renters to come up with more money, go further into debt, or give up their homes will set everyone further back in our economic recovery efforts, pandemic recovery efforts, as well as general public health and safety. A longer timeline with protection for tenants is absolutely essential. Vote YES on SB 282.