



Virginia Garcia Memorial  
**FOUNDATION**

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TO: Senate Housing Committee  
FR: Serena Cruz, Executive Director  
RE: **Virginia Garcia's Support for SB 282-1**

Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Linthicum, and members of the committee,

The past year has brought great difficulty for the people we serve at the Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center and Foundation.

COVID-19 has disproportionately affected Latinx people who live in Washington County, with infection rates three times higher than the general population and increased job loss due to the pandemic shut downs. The extension of the eviction moratorium in HB 4401 was a lifeline, preventing death as well as displacement and homelessness to people who have already suffered so much.

As the Oregon State Economist testified with last month's revenue forecast, lower income Oregonians are going to continue to face struggles for the foreseeable future and their job options "remain dim." That means through no fault of their own, our patients will see a delayed recovery and those who have fallen behind on rent are going to need more time to catch up, more protections against COVID-era evictions being used against them and more protections against landlord retaliation and easing of restrictions that allow landlords to evict if families or friends have to share housing because of the pandemic, wildfires or other crisis.

As we year of recovery, we must ensure that everyone in Oregon has a chance. The state must ensure that the people we serve - and all people who have already suffered so much during the pandemic - don't have unnecessary and prolonged suffering that could have been prevented. Safe and stable housing has an effect on every aspect of a person's life: their health, their family stability and their children's education, their economic future.

Please pass SB 282-1 and give everyone a fair chance for the post-pandemic future in our state.