

My name is Violeta Alvarez, I am a tenant in Multnomah County and I'm a staff member at the Community Alliance of Tenants. I'm writing in support of HB 282-1. Passing this bill is an essential step in protecting thousands of Oregonians that are at risk of houselessness.

There was a housing crisis before covid, disproportionately impacting Black, Indigenous, other people of color, immigrants/refugees, low-income and disabled tenants. Throughout the pandemic we have heard from hundreds of tenants who have accumulated debt as a result of losing their jobs, having to take care of their families, and other circumstances. Tenants have been doing everything in their power to pay rent such as borrowing money, using their savings, cutting back on essentials, seeking rental assistance and finding other ways to be able to pay rent. Many have tried seeking rental/financial assistance through a number of agencies and have not been able to access such assistance due to requirements they can't meet, assistance running out and other barriers such as documentation status. Thousands of tenants across Oregon are worried month after month worried about how they will pay their next rent, the rent they have accumulated, if they will soon lose their home and retaliation. Tenants have experienced retaliation as a result of not being able to pay rent such as being given for-cause notices and they must be protected from this continuing to happen. Without an extension of the grace period and passing these essential tenant protections it could put thousands of low-income tenants in danger of eviction, houselessness, COVID illness and death. The best prevention during the pandemic is having a safe place to stay.

Please, stand with me and Oregon tenants calling for the passing of HB 282-1. Oregonians need to be protected from the threat of eviction. Nobody should lose their homes during this crisis or ever.

Thank you.

Violeta Alvarez