

Hi, my name is Jeane Gaiennie (she/they).

I am here to testify in support of SB282-1 ideally with revisions and in connection with other bills in session which will give tenants back- and forward- grace for rent repayment, assistance, and forgiveness as needed at this time.

I wear many hats as a 58-year-old disabled survivor, tenant, member of CAT, and social Entrepreneur working in the community to align the haves and have nots with equity and inclusion.

In the past 3.5 years and while serving the homeless and working to address the root causes of homelessness, I have been on the edge over and over again as finding safe, affordable, equitable, and sustainable housing is an impossible task. In fact, it's been a full-time job at the demise of meeting other basic needs.

At present, I am residing in my eighth housing situation following three back-to-back debilitating lived experiences which included two legal cases spanning 1.5 years. In both cases, I prevailed on the merits; yet, I lost. I lost opportunities for work. I lost ground on my mental health. I lost my neighborhood and sense of community. And, to add insult to injury, I even lost my stimulus checks; my most recent landlord refused to notify me of their arrival hence they are back in the hands of the IRS.

I have been bullied, harassed, and retaliated against leading to three self-evictions, the engagement of Call-To-Safety, and time away from my mission and purpose which has for 25 years been to fix the broken systems and systemic problems which provide the more privileged (in this case the landlords, watch groups, politicians and the government) with more power and authority over tenants or "others" who like me are paying, rule-abiding, and upstanding humans and tenants.

For the first time in 3.5 years in Portland, I am living alone which has provided me some relief. However, I know its just a matter of time before I will find myself on the edge of the streets once more as I have no income, fall through the cracks of so many systems, and have signed up for a 40% increase in ground rent and utilities only to live in a big corporate controlled studio apartment overlooking an 8-lane highway at an insecure inner-city location; in just eight weeks I witnessed one armed robbery, two shootings, and multiple car accidents.

Hence, for all tenants struggling to be safe, feel safe, and focus on more than housing worries daily, I vote "yes" on this bill with advocacy for more tenant rights and protections in this time to include an extension of the rent moratorium. This bill, SB282-1 provides only limited tenant protections and more are needed!

Thank you!