



March 18, 2021

Senate Committee on Housing and Development
Oregon Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Linthicum, and Members of the Committee,

I write to you on behalf of Home Forward in support of Senate Bill 282 with the -3 amendments. Home Forward is a Public Housing Authority (PHA) and the largest provider of affordable housing in the state of Oregon. We serve more than 17,000 households in Multnomah County by providing affordable housing, supportive services, and administering short and long-term rent assistance.

With the influx of federal rent assistance dollars coming to the State to support tenants and landlords, we support providing households with a grace period to pay back unpaid rent so they have time to access those resources. In addition to supporting the delivery of incoming federal resources, Home Forward appreciates the opportunity to collaborate with Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) to administer the \$150 million dollars that the legislature allocated to the Landlord Compensation Fund in December. These federal and state investments have the potential to prevent mass evictions but not all of the funds are here yet and providers need time to get these resources out of the door. The grace period in SB282 (-3 amendments) is essential to making sure this significant public investment in rent assistance successfully prevents eviction and compensates landlords for unpaid rent.

We also strongly support the provisions to ensure that non-payment and late rent payments during the pandemic will not be included on credit reports. People who have been impacted by a global public health emergency should not be screened out of housing opportunities as a result.

We urge the swift passage of Senate Bill 282 (-3 amendments).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide support for SB282 (-3 amendments). Please contact Taylor Smiley Wolfe, Director of Policy and Planning, Home Forward at 503-957-8760 or taylor.smileywolfe@homeforward.org regarding these comments.

Sincerely,

Taylor Smiley Wolfe
Director of Policy and Planning
Home Forward