



House Housing Committee

Testimony in Support of SB 282 A-Eng.

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AARP is pleased to support SB 282 A-Eng. to extend COVID related tenant protections until March 2022. This is critical legislation and we urge its passage.

AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan social change organization with a nationwide membership of nearly 38 million and 503,000 in Oregon. We work to improve quality of life for all as we age, strengthen our communities, and fight for the issues that matter to Oregon families. An important aspect of our work in Oregon is advocating for livable and age-friendly communities, including expanding housing options and ensuring access to affordable, safe, secure, and accessible homes for Oregonians of all ages and abilities.

Critical Need in Oregon: Even before the pandemic, Oregon communities lacked affordable, accessible, and varied housing options. The pandemic, wildfires and floods have effected families across Oregon and disproportionately impacted older adults, people of color, and low-income individuals. According to the state Office of Economic Analysis, job prospects for low-income Oregonians “remain dim” during the recovery and we will not be back to full employment until 2023.

Solution: In December 2020, we supported extending the eviction moratorium through June 2021 and urged for more time to pay back rent. Today, we urge you to extend the back-rent repayment grace period and notice through February 2022. Without the extension, many more Oregonians could lose their homes at the end of June 2021 when the current moratorium ends.

SB 282 A-Eng. comes to you as the result of workgroup compromise crafted in the Senate. The bill includes additional temporary reasonable screening and sealing protections and credit history protections so that tenants are not penalized for the devastating COVID economic crisis and prevented from securing stable housing in the future.

On behalf of over half million AARP members ages 50+ statewide, we urge you to pass SB 282 A-Eng. because it is one way to make our state an age-friendly and livable place for people of all ages, abilities, races and incomes.