



Standing for dignity in the workplace

February 10th, 2021

Chair Fahey, Vice-Chairs Campos and Morgan and Members of the House Housing Committee,

I write in strong support of HB 2842, the Healthy Homes Act. The Northwest Workers' Justice Project provides legal representation to low-wage workers throughout the economy in sectors such as construction, building maintenance, landscaping, hotels and restaurants, food processing, agriculture and forestry. All of our clients are low-wage earners. Many live in substandard housing with dangerous conditions like mold, lack of ventilation and lack of proper heating/cooling systems.

HB 2842 would bring needed relief to the workers we represent, who are almost all renters. Many of our clients are afraid to raise their concerns regarding needed repairs and maintenance for fear of eviction or retaliation. This bill will provide grants to groups that provide financial assistance to both low-income renters and their landlords to make needed household repairs. These grants should alleviate some of our clients fears regarding retaliation by landlords. The Healthy Homes Act will have a measurable, meaningful impact on the lives of our clients.

NWJP is a member of the Fair Shot For All Coalition. We support Healthy Homes as part of the 2021 Fair Shot legislative agenda and as part of the ongoing work for environmental justice in Oregon.

Please vote yes on HB 2842 to help build an Oregon where everyone lives in a home that is healthy and safe.

Thank you.

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