

Dear Chair Fahey, Vice-Chair Campos, Vice-Chair Morgan and all Committee members,

My name is Kristen Sartor. I am a mental health therapist living in North Portland.

I am a strong, enthusiastic supporter of the Healthy Homes Bill (HB 2842). This bill would enable low-income families in our state to be able to make crucial improvements to their homes. This is important because people who live in homes that are not energy efficient deal with illness, sick days (which can be unpaid leading to more poverty) and trips to the hospital (which can also lead to more poverty) that those of us living in energy efficient homes do not have to deal with. This is due to issues caused by mold, cold weather, wildfire smoke and poor air quality. These are just the physical issues. Life is already full of challenges and stress. People in our community that are unable to fix their homes live with the added stress of knowing that if only they had the funds, they and their children would be healthier and more comfortable. These people live with all of the mental health affects that come with being sick more often, too. I know that when I'm sick, I often feel more down. I imagine that some of you can relate to that.

Personally, I have always lived in a safe, energy efficient home. I have never experienced avoidable suffering due to my place of residence. I urge you today to think about those many people, including children, in poverty that lack access to this basic, human need. We must take care of our people. This is a basic component of humanity.

Thank you very much for your time and service,
Kristen Sartor
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