



HOUSE BILL 2842 - HEALTHY HOMES

In 2020, it became even more clear that living in a healthy home is essential. [Fifty-four percent of Oregonians live in housing built before 1978](#). This housing is energy inefficient and in need of repairs. Low-income families are at the highest risk. People living in energy inefficient homes experience sick days and hospital visits caused by mold, cold weather, and an inability to take refuge from bad outdoor air quality. This is even more dangerous during a respiratory pandemic: research shows that people who breathe polluted air are at greater risk of severe cases of COVID-19.



[In 2017, Oregonians spent \\$28 million on asthma-related hospital visits](#). Additionally, energy bills are high for families heating a drafty house. Our housing quality problem is harming everyday people and putting a burden on our healthcare system. This is not just a health problem: thirty-two percent of children live in energy burdened homes and asthma is the leading cause of missed school days.

Oregon has the opportunity to drastically improve lives by creating a Healthy Homes program at the Oregon Health Authority to improve the quality and efficiency of our housing stock statewide.

[By supporting home improvements in low-income households across Oregon, we will:](#)

- Spend less money on heating and cooling
- Have a refuge from bad outdoor air quality such as wildfire smoke
- Experience fewer sick days and emergency room visits
- Live in more disaster-resilient homes
- Create good, local jobs in home retrofitting
- Reduce burden on healthcare systems



HOUSE BILL 2842 - HEALTHY HOMES (CONTINUED)

House Bill 2842 will create:

- [A Healthy Homes Program and Healthy Homes Repair Fund within the Oregon Health Authority](#)
 - Distributes grants to local governments, local housing authorities, nonprofit organizations, community groups, or federally recognized Indian tribes in Oregon to assist low income households or environmental justice communities with home repairs and retrofits.
- [The Interagency Task Force on Healthy Homes](#)
 - Ensures better coordination between agencies doing home improvement work which will ensure better outcomes for Oregon residents.