

From: [Doyle Canning](#)
To: [Exhibits JSCVR](#)
Subject: Written testimony re COVID crisis economic agenda
Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 5:37:06 PM

Dear Committee,

I was just alerted to your deadline of 5 PM for recommendations to the legislature so please forgive the brevity and bullet point format and that it is coming in at 530 pm. Thank you for soliciting feedback.

1. Identify actions to support low-income and vulnerable Oregonians and small businesses as they comply with public health guidance. These actions could include short-term economic relief, protection from housing instability, and support for those not eligible for state programs (such as sick leave and unemployment insurance).

The public health goal must be to keep people in their homes, and get those without homes housed in quarters that allow for reduction of transmission.

- Freeze all evictions, foreclosures, and utility shutoffs (See New York).

<https://www.citylab.com/equity/2020/03/covid-19-housing-security-eviction-utility-shut-off-mortgage/607951/>

- Halt debt collections by the state of Oregon (see New York).

- Seek to shut down payday lending and create alternative, state sponsored 0 interest short term loans, available online. Partner with credit unions?

- Cease premiums and co-pays on OHP and make OHP available to anyone with an Oregon address. Reduce/Eliminate any other financial or legal barrier to accessing health care at this time.

- Small businesses and farms should receive a grant of at least 4 months of operating costs (or a predicted length of the outbreak up to 18 mos) to 1. Keep employees on the payroll 2. Mitigate damages on any perishable inventory 3. Keep payments on leases/loans from going in to default. See Wisconsin's 20k grant, which is probably not enough, but a potential model — <https://wkow.com/2020/03/18/help-for-small-businesses-impacted-by-coronavirus/>
Larger corporations can borrow at no interest.

- Regardless of the federal plan, an emergency Universal Basic Income payment to every Oregonian every month that the state of emergency continues and for at least 3 months afterwards. Suggest 2,000 for every adult and 500 for every dependent child to mitigate economic damages, cover housing and food costs. <https://thehill.com/opinion/finance/488306-public-health-requires-temporary-universal-basic-income>

- Nonviolent offenders released from prisons, and transitioned into housing. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2020/03/17/we-must-release-prisoners-lessen-spread-coronavirus/>

- State takes over motels to mitigate spread in unhoused communities (see California <https://www.sacbee.com/news/coronavirus/article241247646.html>), as well as create

designated housing for COVID positivities that do not require hospitalization but are currently co-housing with vulnerable populations (university housing and other state owned assets - see UW https://www.kenoshanews.com/news/state-and-regional/if-madison-hospital-beds-fill-up-with-covid--patients/article_7c6118fb-1103-52ab-908c-83da64e99591.html)

- Aggressive investment in culturally competent outreach into non-English speaking and other marginalized communities to publicize all of the above.

2. Make timely budget and policy recommendations to the Legislature to accomplish the goal above.

- A general policy platform of "Buyouts not bailouts" - any company that wants a bailout will become partially or fully owned by the state of Oregon and profits will be distributed accordingly towards the costs of the above programs. The company must buy the taxpayers out when better times resume. In the mean time, they must not lay off workers, offer unlimited paid sick leave and other measures to accomplish the goal of ending the outbreak. See principles proposed at the federal level by Senator Warren.

Thank you!

.....
The size of your dreams must always exceed your current capacity to achieve them. If your dreams do not scare you, they are not big enough.€ — Ellen Johnson Sirleaf
.....

www.canningforcongress.com

(541) 357-6899

@Canning4Oregon

*she/her