

March 23, 2020

Special Joint Committee on Coronavirus Response  
Co-Chair, Senator Roblan  
Co-Chair, Representative Holvey  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Roblan and Holvey and members of the Committee:

We are writing on behalf of the Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN), a coalition of Indivisible groups from across Oregon. Indivisible is a nationwide movement of thousands of volunteer-led local groups that engage in progressive advocacy and electoral work at the local, state and national level.

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and in the absence of positive, effective leadership by the Trump administration, it falls to the states to protect our citizens. We are encouraged that the Special Joint Committee on Coronavirus Response has already gotten to work and that the Governor and state legislative leaders are convening a special session to deal with this crisis. We also look for the state government to set an example of real transparency by holding daily public briefings where the Governor and legislative leaders describe the steps they are taking.

The Legislature must ensure that the response that Oregon provides to its stricken population addresses both our economic and our health and safety needs. This means that during the special session the Legislature and the Governor must:

**PROVIDE ECONOMIC RELIEF FOR INDIVIDUALS AND SMALL BUSINESSES BY**

- Relaxing restrictions on access to and eligibility for unemployment insurance
- Halting evictions
- Providing emergency rent forgiveness for all non-salaried workers
- Pausing all utility shut-offs and late fees. (The big utility companies in the urban parts of the state have already said they won't charge late fees or disconnect anyone who has asked for relief. This concession should be extended across the entire state.)
- Allowing homeowners to delay or modify their mortgage payments
- Placing a moratorium on foreclosure proceedings
- Postponing state tax payments for 3 months
- Mandating that any state funding to businesses should:
  - Require that funds be provided to maintain/expand payroll, not to pay executive bonuses or fund golden parachutes
  - Require businesses to provide the state taxpayers a means to recoup funds when businesses recover
- Increasing funding for homelessness services
- Providing additional investments in affordable housing

**SECURE THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF OREGONIANS BY**

- Providing paid sick leave

- Providing financial support to people without health insurance in need of testing/treatment for coronavirus
- Ensuring that SNAP and WIC-eligible food and supplies are consistently available in grocery stores and that special times are set aside for the elderly and healthcare workers to shop
- Affording safe shelters for COVID-19 patients once they are released from the hospital
- Creating a chief COVID-19 medical officer position to be filled by someone with the appropriate clinical and tactical background needed to provide leadership
- Increasing access to food vouchers and make them available at all DMV locations and food banks
- Providing childcare vouchers for parents who must continue to work while children are kept home from school

Oregonians are looking to you to provide the leadership and the help we so desperately need at this time. Our lives and livelihoods depend on it.

Sincerely,

The following members of the Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network:

Florence Indivisible	Indivisible Clackamas	Indivisible Lincoln City
Indivisible 97201	Klamath Indivisible	OneSmallThing PDX
Indivisible Cedar Mill	Nasty Women Get Shit Done	The Vocal Seniority
Indivisible Hillsboro	Protect Oregon's Progress (The Dalles)	Wallowa Action Group - Postcardia
Indivisible North Coast Oregon	Oregon Walden Watch	Rural Voices (Condon)
Indivisible Oregon	ORD-2 Indivisible	Gorge ReSisters
Southwest Huddle	Indivisible Progressive Yamhill	Indivisible Columbia Gorge

The Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network represents thousands of Oregon voters across the state and is dedicated to making our state a safer, healthier and environmentally supportive place to live. Contact us at [mary.d.chaffin@gmail.com](mailto:mary.d.chaffin@gmail.com).

cc. All other members of the Senate and House  
Governor Kate Brown

