

To whom it may concern,

My name is Michael Smith, and I'm an instructional assistant at Earl Boyle's Elementary School in the David Douglas School District. My daily job consists of aiding students (1st - 4th grade) with reading deficiencies as well as crafting hard work/leadership skills as well as empathetic awareness in everyday life.

On Monday (3/16/20) Governor Kate Brown declared an extension on Oregon schools being shut down from the original (4/1/20) until (4/28/20). What this means is that both staff and students are no longer able to attend their respected schools (aside from the brave custodians that have to deep clean the schools daily).

This is a nuisance for all parties involved because kids are losing valuable education/meal time, staff and teachers are losing out on providing an education and custodians are risking their health in order to keep the rest of us safe and maintain a living for themselves. Parents all across the state, and the world for that matter are having to take off work time in order to make sure that their children are safe. This is a huge issue right now because a good portion of these families are struggling on a regular basis let alone during a worldwide pandemic such as the one happening as you read this. People are being required to stay home (most of which seem to be unpaid) and still having to face the reality of paying their rent/bills and buying food for their children and themselves.

Like most of the people in the country right now, I am also currently not being paid for during this time off. I understand am a lot luckier than most due to saving money on a regular basis while continuing to live with my mother at home. However, I had planned on moving out by the end of next month (April 2020), and crafted a plan for myself to save enough money to do this. Those plans have unfortunately been interrupted because I know that I will not be bringing in as much money as I had initially planned to pay rent/bills/student loans with.

Again, my own situation is modest in comparison to those that are fully on their own with little or no help. That's why I, Michael Todd Smith II am asking you to please consider immunity to those being deeply affected by this tragedy that they are not to blame for. If people are ordered to stay home unpaid during this time, they should not have to pay rent for said months AT THE VERY LEAST. Universal finance and healthcare is a human right and EVERYBODY, should be insured and protected in the event of a worldwide emergency regardless of class/status/sex/race so that families can be taken care of. I hope that this letter reaches the right people and sparks a change and I do truly appreciate you for taking the time to read this.

Thank you,
Michael Todd Smith II