

Members of the committee;

My name is Brandy Fortson, I reside in Corvallis OR and I am a community member, parent, and currently a mutual aid organizer in the community aiding those already affected by the economic effects of the Coronavirus.

I have been in contact with households ranging from your college-age neighbors, your parenting households, as well as your elderly neighbors. I have also spoken with many small business owners, independent contractors, and those in the service industry and they are saying the same thing. How do I pay my rent/mortgage if there is little to no money coming in?

This isn't just a call for a housing stability statement but realizing that housing stability is intersectionally related to economics and reducing the epidemiological impact of this pandemic that is affecting us all.

The initial step to relieve fears and allow Oregonians to engage with social distancing as well as quarantining without fear of what will happen if we do is to have an immediate suspension of rent, mortgages, and evictions with no expectation of payback because having that will just delay access because having to think about repayment when you aren't sure about right now is just going to increase the delay of access to care and furthering the spread of the virus.

You as governmental leaders need to step up and show that you care about all Oregonians and it's small businesses.

This isn't political, it is about survival.

Regards,

Brandy Fortson
They/Them