

To whom it may concern,

I saw on instagram that people affected by Covid-19 closures should write a testimonial of how it is affecting them. Here is my situation.

Last week I was in my second to last week of a certification program to become a massage therapist. The plan at the time was that I would spend March finishing licensing requirements, and hopefully receive my LMT license in mid April or early May. I also had a job offer to begin as an LMT as soon as I received my license, which I accepted. While I was able to finish my coursework and graduation requirements I am delayed in the licensing process due to closures. Now I won't have access to this higher income amount I have been working so hard for, for an unknown and increased amount of time.

Up until Monday of this week I was working part time at a small local business Body of Work Wellness as a receptionist. This business is now closed until the end of April due to school closures and the need for social distancing. Of course I see social distancing as necessary, as I cannot afford health insurance, am uninsured and if I get sick, I'm not even sure that I can afford to go to a hospital. This is not because I'm irresponsible, it was just necessary to be able to afford this transitional time in my life. I'm scared!

I did call the unemployment office, but have not been able to complete my application due to the many, many others who are in a similar situation as mine.

My husband owns a martial arts gym and it is now closed. While many members have decided not to cancel their memberships yet, as people lose their jobs they will have to cancel, and his business could potentially have to close permanently. He is a Japanese citizen, but is here legally and has been living in Oregon since 1987. If his business closes than my families major source of stability will be gone. His two children, my stepsons live with us part time, but during this crisis when their moms both have to work they are with us most days and nights and the loss of stability would be very traumatic for both of them.

Right now we have enough food and supplies for the next couple of weeks, but things could get very dire very quickly and we would go from being a pretty comfortable 4 person family living in a 2 bedroom apartment to being in poverty very quickly. I have invested everything I have into my education, with the plan that this time would be the beginning of my new career and my husband has been helping me make ends meet, but if this continues we will all be in trouble.

As you make your decisions I urge you to provide economic stimulus to all tax payers and not just American citizens, as we all participate in making Oregon the beautiful, wonderful place to live that it is. Thank you for your time in reading my situation.

Chloe Andrew