

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to speak to the need for supporting vulnerable Oregonians during these uncertain times.

I am writing to ask you to consider the impact COVID-19 has already had emotionally, socially, and of course, financially. As a social worker, my clients are often the most vulnerable people in our community in terms of housing, socioeconomic status, health, etc. These are always the people hit the hardest because they have access to fewer resources than others.

My son is a young and healthy 23-year-old. He works as a server and depends on hours and tips. He is currently working 18 hours per week and looking for additional work, which will put him at even greater risk of exposure and/or transmitting the virus to others. It got me thinking that it's impossible to prevent this pandemic if we have people out there working because they will otherwise lose their housing or be unable to make utility payments, and that's why I think it is in the government's best interest to provide interim relief, extended deadlines, and protection from loss of wages. This is about community coming together to provide for these people in times of crisis.

Additionally, policies and any potential stimulus or other safety net must be enacted and shared with the public *as soon as possible*. Not only to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus, but to address the financial concerns which are inevitably affecting the mental health of our society.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your consideration of my opinion.

--

Amanda Adams, MSW, CSWA
Youth Contact
Licensed School Social Worker
Youth & Family Therapist at Tualatin High School
Ph: (503) 431-5648