

Dear committee members,

I have been working in the service industry as a waitress for 10 years and it is my livelihood. I also have been struggling with chronic health conditions the past 4 years of that time which has resulted in living paycheck to paycheck due to medical expenses like medications and doctor visits. This past 4 months has been especially hard as I have been sicker than normal and spending even more money than usual. So when this corona virus started to affect our everyday lives here in Portland, it has proven completely disastrous for me in the slowing down of business at my restaurant, less pay, less hours. Until finally on Monday the 16th, I was laid off.

Paying my rent is going to be a massive issue for me. I applied for unemployment, however the system is overloaded and I have not been called or had anything filed or processed yet, even though they told me they would call me. I have not heard from them. The moratorium on evictions is only somewhat helpful, as having to still pay back that accruing rent money when all this is over will be nearly impossible with my current income system and I am terrified of slipping into deep debt because of it. My medical expenses are not able to be put off or reduced as my survival depends on it. I know many many people live paycheck to paycheck as I do, having to owe a huge sum of money when all this is over due to backpaid rent is going to be another financial disaster and simply not possible. Please listen in this dire situation for all of us, to assist with rent and mortgage payments, excusing them, while this crisis unfolds.

Thank you for listening,
Morgan Florea
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