

To whom it may concern,

My life has been flipped upside down by this abrupt halt to my only income and livelihood. I am a master's level graduate that had barely making ends meet by returning to my hometown and working in the service industry 4-5 days a week (no benefits or paid sick days etc.). I also live with my boyfriend who is a full time bartender and has been loyal to the same small business our town knows and loves within Bend, Oregon. Between the two of us, our entire income is from the service industry and has just disappeared in a moment as we received a group text to our entire staff notifying us that we are forced to close our doors for at least 4 weeks. On top of scrounging what we can to afford rent in what is predominately a destination and service industry town, I am drowning in student loan payments and healthcare that isn't always covered by OHP if I make JUST too much than what is allowed as it's maximum (even though I still have chronic conditions that require some kind of coverage; ones that add up and cause their own financial strain along with inability to perform certain tasks or work). Thus, another bill while I cannot find work in the profession I banked my future on. The service industry was our means to survive and now all that experience cannot even go to "just another bar or restaurant" as they are all down and we are all grasping at the same resources. PLEASE take these words into consideration as I know my story is just one of thousands out there, and find some type of solution for those of us that want to keep working, surviving and putting back into our community!

Thank you,

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