

Hello,

My name is Stephanie Duncker and I am representing a local group of Creatives of Color that has membership of almost 4000 people. This group includes (but is not limited to) BIPOC performing artists, visual artists, freelancers, and entrepreneurs. As is the case with many artists, freelancers and entrepreneurs of color nationwide, many of the group's members lack proper access to healthcare, many have service-oriented & retail "day jobs" that help keep them afloat, many are single parents, and many have livelihoods focused on events and gatherings. Which is to say, many members of the group are now left without income, without childcare and without healthcare.

On behalf of the members of this group, I am advocating for:

- Hazard Pay (time and a half) for all service & retail workers who have to continue working
- Mandating workplaces supply masks, gloves and other safety provisions to reduce risk of infection.
- Mandating paid time off for those that are forced to take leave due to temporary closures, and severance packages for employees that are permanently laid off.
- A specific relief stimulus package to help small businesses with the stipulation that this package can ONLY be spent on hazard pay, paid time off, severance pay and safety provisions
- Relief packages specifically for artists, freelancers & gig economy workers (including but not limited to Lyft & Uber drivers)
- Fines and sanctions for corporations such as Fred Meyers, New Seasons and other grocery stores which are dictating that their employees not speak publicly about their workplace safety concerns under the risk of termination. Additional penalties for any business that attempts to union-bust in this critical time.
- Universal health care- because as many respected publications have noted- [lack](#) of [access](#) to [health care](#) puts us all at risk. Waive ALL healthcare costs for all low-to-mid income Oregon residents, and not just costs related to Corona virus. The uninsured often have to rely on the Emergency Room for medical care, which can clog the system as confirmed cases of COVID-19 increase. Universal health care ensures that those who need to can go to clinics and specialists without using emergency room resources. Also increase the income thresholds for state programs like Medicaid and Medicare and provide financial assistance to pay for private healthcare plans. Additionally, we need SSI applications and payments expedited, and to expand the criteria for mental health disability to include anxiety disorders and crisis related PTSD.
- Institute rent, mortgage & utility freezes for as long as the school shut-down is in effect. If parents are unable to receive income due to both workplaces closing and having to stay home with children; banks and financial institutions should also lose their income. There is no reason why the working poor should shoulder this burden while banks, landlords and power companies can continue on with business as usual.
- A proactive community stimulus package focused on businesses/organizations for and by people of color. The purpose of this package would be to encourage self-sufficiency for both individuals and businesses. As we're seen with this crisis and others, People of Color are disproportionately harmed by infrastructure failures and market changes. Not to mention we face additional barriers such as racism

and state violence that further hurts our ability to provide for ourselves and families. As society rapidly shifts under our feet, we need the next generation of entrepreneurs of color to come up with solutions. We need grants for both new and established businesses. Additionally we need resources specifically designated for us that help build community alternatives to systems that weren't made for us. We need things like access to land to grow food, and alternative power subsidies so we can thrive in times of chaos.

- Targeted funding so health care providers can buy and administer more COVID-19 tests.

- And finally, an end to bail for jails, deactivate ICE, release detainees, and stop all sweeps of homeless camps (statewide)

As marginalized members of a state that does not have a positive history of treatment towards its Black & Brown citizens, we are counting on you to do what is right.

Thank you for considering these recommendations.

Stephanie Duncker