

Hello, Joint Committee--

Thank you for making the opportunity for public comment. With the spread of COVID-19 changing daily, Oregonians need swift relief and protections put into place now. Many Oregonians are without work, as demonstrated by the State's inability to tolerate the volume of incoming requests for unemployment. Our low-income, undocumented, and otherwise marginalized residents are already living paycheck to paycheck-- being laid off, having their hours reduced, or being unable to work due to their own potential exposure will leave hundreds of thousands of Oregonians unable to pay their bills. Allow people not to pay rent during this state-declared emergency that is preventing many people from working, particularly those in low wage service type jobs who likely don't have savings to fall back on. Eviction moratoria are a good start, but for many people those wages will never get recovered. If Oregon legislators want to slow the spread of COVID-19, residents need to have protection and supports in place to be able to take recommended precautions, which cannot be done when workers cannot afford to self-quarantine. Oregonians, particularly low wage workers, need swift decisive action on rental relief right now: rental and mortgage freeze.

--

Regards,
Lane Kaiser
Pronouns: He/Him/His