

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for opening the opportunity for public comment regarding the COVID-19 response in Oregon. As a Masters in Public Health candidate at the OHSU-PSU School of Public Health, I am imploring the state to consider the public health implications for all Oregonians, especially low wage workers, during this time of crisis.

All Oregonians need swift, decisive action on rental relief right now: A freeze on rents and mortgages, and/or rental/mortgage payment assistance that is simple to use and access by tenants of all social locations.

While eviction moratoria is a good start, many Oregonians will never recover from the financial burden brought on by their incurred debt, which will severely impact their well-being in the future. It is well known in the field of public health that financial status is directly associated with health outcomes.

I ask the state to allow people not to pay rent during this state-declared emergency since it is preventing many people from gaining income at this time, particularly those in low-wage service industry jobs. This step will help ensure financial security and, ultimately, stabilize the health of Oregonians both during and after this global crisis.

Thank you,

Siiri Visto

Siiri Visto

MPH Public Health Practice | OHSU-PSU School of Public Health

visto@ohsu.edu | svisto@pdx.edu

Pronouns: she/her

[Why are pronouns important?](#)