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**To:** [Exhibits JSCVR](#)  
**Cc:** [Curt Floski](#); [Mike Yunker](#); [Colleen Thomas](#); [James Cook](#)  
**Subject:** COVID-19 and its Impact -- personal comment  
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To the Joint Special Committee:

In Bend, Oregon, we are seeing severe restrictions on the ability of Shepherd's House Ministries, and other shelters, to offer basic services to the very substantial homeless (and now unsheltered) population of Central Oregon.

The steps taken to fight the spread of COVID-19 are, in essence, taking away the ability of the homeless and vulnerable to access survival needs such as shelter, nutritious meals and hygiene measures. While preventing the spread of a potentially deadly virus has appropriate priority, it must be kept in mind that the unsheltered homeless have vulnerabilities that the average citizen might not fully comprehend. Loss of basic services, as described above, truly has as much potential to threaten the lives of the unsheltered as does the virus.

Equally important, the focus of the population-at-large has turned away from the support needed by those who serve this population, as the drama of pandemic dominates the media. Financial support needed to continue services is threatening to disappear at this time. We should not lose sight of the irreparable harm that looms if that much needed financial support does not revive in time.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns as a person and as someone dedicated to being a part of these services.

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John Lodise  
Director of Emergency Services  
Shepherd's House Ministries