

Dear Legislators,

My wife and I are retired and own a couple of duplexes in Benton and Linn County that are a critical source of income which is needed to keep a roof over our head, put food on the table and pay for health care and other essentials. Please do not consider rent deferral as an option as it would leave us without income and those deferring would pile up debt they cannot repay, ultimately leaving them without housing.

During this time, we need steady leadership that provides common sense and thought-through solutions to this crisis.

Part of this is ensuring that working families living paycheck to paycheck are able to stay housed.

As a shelter provider, I encourage you, as well as your fellow lawmakers, to make the right choice by choosing to compensate shelter providers directly for rental payment assistance during this crisis. Several of the permanent rental assistance programs we encounter every day employ this same model of direct payment to the provider.

I understand that this situation puts many working families at risk. By making payment directly to landlords, we can cover our costs and keep providing shelter for people affected.

By not doing this, there is no guarantee that money will get to us to cover our mortgages and other overhead, forcing us close units.

I want to keep people in my units, so I am strongly urging you to direct payment to shelter providers to keep people housed.

Regards,

Fred and Sarah Bruck
North Albany