

I have personally been working with task force members of the mayor of Portland, the Governor, and Rep. Earl Blumenauer on these ideas. This is a simplified letter to hit at the heart of the matter. I have more detailed suggestions to Mr. Blumenauer's office if you'd like to see them, and can send as attachments. We need a national movement now! Please help! I have virtually no social media presence, yet, need to get these ideas to go viral! I am a local business owner in Portland, Oregon.

To all concerned citizens,

Unprecedented times call for unprecedented creativity. It is evident that we have what is in essence a two front war: a global health pandemic, and an economic meltdown of unprecedented proportion.

The best recommended method to fight the pandemic is social distancing. Therefore, we must implement immediately a stay-in-place policy across the nation and the world. If the way to stop the virus is to stop the spread through interpersonal contact, this will be the quickest and most effective way to flatten the curve, and stop the virus in its tracks. Let it play itself out in infected populations, and wait for the coast to clear.

Secondly, the cash flow crisis that is upon businesses and individuals must have a uniform policy across the board that keeps everyone "whole" as a result of the stay-in-place policy. The economic consequences of the pandemic so far have dwarfed the medical impacts. The best way to combat the economic meltdown and cash flow crisis is to pause or freeze all debt, mortgage, lease, and rent payments in their tracks across the board for everyone. I have advocated for immediately passing a national law to do just this. Once the crisis is over, allow business to recover and then un-pause.

We have frozen millions of businesses ability to make money, pay wages, and economic activity has screeched to a halt. The only way to effectively keep our nation and the world from a meltdown is to simultaneously halt the need to make payments. All banks and financial institutions must get on board with a uniform policy enacted across all platforms to make this work. If banks cannot receive payments on the loans, we are facing another financial crisis. By halting the requirement to make payments, banks can then work within the framework of the Federal Reserve System, and interbank lending to create and maintain liquidity for essential services. We can reduce or stop business failure in its tracks, and thus, the need to bail out industries and financial institutions. Federal and State aid can then be most effectively used for the basic survival needs of food and utilities.

We must have the mindset to create a national protocol for these situations; protocols for health systems and economic systems that protect everyone on both levels. The current paradigm of tax credits, loans, and bailouts cannot possibly keep everyone "whole". The government cannot and should not create untenable amounts of debt or print money in the volume needed.

Many banks and individuals are working out these very solutions on their own. What is needed is a coordinated, coherent and effective policy across the board for all people. We must stand united and demand a national economic freeze for both our health needs and economic needs.

Please share this letter, its ideas, or both across every platform you have and to every political and business leader you can. We must create a movement that begins with the premise that all people will equally be kept whole throughout this crisis. That means with healthcare and economic needs.

Thank you, Michael Maggard, Citizen, mvmaggard@gmail.com 971-221-5713