

Dear Legislators,

Thank you for your leadership during these times of crisis. The COVID-19 pandemic has shaken the lives of everyone in Oregon, not doubt across the nation. Working families and renters need your help!

As a renter, I encourage you, as well as your fellow lawmakers, to make the right choice by choosing to compensate renters directly for rental payment assistance during this crisis. This is not permanent rental assistance, this is emergency aid for those who have been recently laid off, or have had their hours cut due to the pandemic.

Repairs have largely been limited to emergencies only, so renters may be required to fix and repair themselves to maintain a habitable home. This situation puts many working renters at risk. By making payments directly to renters and those most affected by this pandemic, ensures that rents can be paid, food can be bought, and that people can be sheltered.

By not doing this, there is no guarantee that money will get to renters in time to protect them from eviction notices that may be validated after the moratorium is lifted. It also does not offer any help for related repairs to homes during the pandemic.

I want to keep my community healthy, together, and alive so I am strongly urging you to direct payment to renters to keep people housed.

Sincerely,

Michael Rodriguez

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