

Dear Legislators,

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. Oregon State University students are emailing me daily about relief from rents owed.

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 and university students 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 to close units.

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

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