



Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer
Oregon House District 46
900 Court St. NE, Salem, OR 97301

May 12, 2020

Governor Kate Brown
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Governor Brown:

We are writing to request that you take further action to prevent housing instability among renters and homeowners across Oregon, and commit \$300 million in Coronavirus Relief Funds to housing needs across our state.

Oregonians need the stability and safety of a home, and the current pandemic means that people who rent or own their homes may be unable to pay their rent or mortgage, and are in need of financial help and support to prevent foreclosure, eviction, and homelessness.

The eviction moratorium you issued on April 1 will stop immediate evictions for non-payment of rent for people who rent their homes.

Now, we must turn our attention to what happens after these moratoriums are lifted since they only delay eviction and foreclosure for nonpayment. These bills will still come due.

We are concerned that renters and homeowners who have lost work during this time may be unable to pay several months of back rent or mortgage payments. Without assistance, we are concerned that our communities are facing a wave of evictions and foreclosures.

We are asking you to allocate \$300 million of those available funds to rental housing assistance. Oregon is expected to receive \$1.39 billion¹.

We hope that many Oregonians will be able to pay some of their rent thanks to the expanded Unemployment Insurance program and the direct stimulus payments. We know, however, that

¹ <https://www.cbpp.org/research/state-budget-and-tax/how-will-states-and-localities-divide-the-fiscal-relief-in-the>

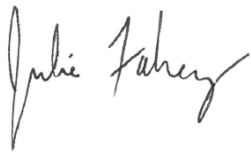
many Oregonians may remain ineligible for Unemployment Insurance, or it won't be enough to cover their basic expenses for the duration of this crisis. Prior to this crisis, many Oregonians were already struggling to pay rent.

One in six Oregon workers have filed for unemployment² by the end of April, and rent or mortgage payments are a primary concern. The National Low Income Housing Coalition estimates that Oregon will need \$1.2 billion³ in rental assistance to support Oregonians with low incomes who have lost work due to the pandemic.

We are asking you to help prevent a wave of evictions and foreclosure after the moratoria end. Without stable housing, tenants are at risk of experiencing homelessness, and some landlords are at risk of losing their homes to the banks. We urge you to take action and ensure that Oregon has rental and mortgage payment assistance funds to help meet the need.

Thank you very much for your time and for your service to our state during these challenging times.

Sincerely,



Rep. Julie Fahey
Chair, House Committee on
Housing



Rep. Jack Zika
Vice Chair, House Committee on
Housing



Rep. Mark Meek
Vice Chair, House Committee on
Housing



Rep. Alissa Keny-Guyer
Member, House Committees on
Housing and Human Services



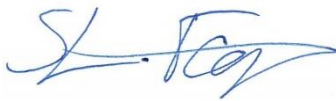
Rep. Tawna Sanchez
Chair, House Committee on
Human Services



Rep. Ron Noble
Vice Chair, House Committee on
Human Services



Rep. Anna Williams
Vice Chair, House Committee on
Human Services



Sen. Shemia Fagan
Chair, Senate Committee on
Housing and Development



Sen. Sara Gelsler
Chair, Senate Committee on
Human Services

John VanLandingham, on behalf of Oregon Law Center
Deborah Imse, on behalf of Multifamily NW
Alison McIntosh, on behalf of the Oregon Housing Alliance
Janet Merrell, on behalf of the Community Action Partnership of Oregon
Joel Madsen, on behalf of Housing Authorities of Oregon

² <https://www.oregonlive.com/business/2020/04/oregon-coronavirus-job-losses-top-360000.html>

³ <https://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/Need-for-Rental-Assistance-During-the-COVID-19-and-Economic-Crisis.pdf>