

**From:** [Farrah C](#)  
**To:** [Exhibits JSCVR](#)  
**Subject:** Oregon's COVID-19 Response  
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Good afternoon and thank you for serving on this important committee for our state.

I am writing to urge you to take immediate and substantive action to care for our most vulnerable residents during this crisis. People are losing their income, jobs, and some times healthcare. We cannot fight this pandemic with the added crisis of people starving and houseless as well. We are all aware that the housing situation in Oregon is stark. Affordability is a constant talking point and we have literal encampments because people cannot afford to live here. The first thing we need to do is stop sweeping campsites. Unless and until a permanent shelter is found with adequate room for the human beings being "swept" (as if they were trash) we should not be disrupting lives further in the middle of a pandemic to disperse people to god-knows-where.

Which brings me to a larger issue... What do we do when so many people are one paycheck away from being houseless? We need a moratorium statewide on evictions, but also we need to freeze and forgive rent, mortgage, and utility payments. It will not be enough to just freeze these payment until we are allowed to venture out into the world and several weeks past that point so people can recoup their lost wages, if that's even possible with the stock market plummeting. People are going to come out of quarantine in debt once those payments are unfrozen. We either need to provide the cash to people to make those payments or we need to forgive them outright. We need cash assistance for people cannot afford groceries and every day medicine. Treatment for this virus should be free. And we need to get supplies to people in light of all the panic buying/hoarding that is happening. The US is often mocked for it's overproduction, now is the time to use that tendency to our advantage.

I would also ask that the Governor consider declaring morning shopping hours at stores for those who are older or immunocompromised. That way they can get in when the shelves are stocked and hopefully after high touch points have been disinfected for the day.

I understand it is difficult getting help from the federal government, but as Oregonians we are strong independent trail blazers, we can find a way.

Thank you,

**Farrah Chaichi**  
Pronouns: she/her/hers