

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Laurel Skelton, and I live at 5363 Tahsili Street, Eugene, OR 97405

I am reaching out to you to ask you to extend and **expand** Oregon's eviction moratorium.

I have a special circumstance, which I believe bears attention because it may be representative of many various circumstances where people are in dire need of assistance through this difficult time.

In late 2019, my now 67 year old husband suffered cardiac arrest for a full *fifteen minutes*. Obviously, he was not expected to survive, but miraculously, he did. But after two hospital stays and two open-heart surgeries, his health is not good, and puts him at severe risk for the COVID-19 virus.

Adding to the difficulties of recovery, less than 5 months after his cardiac arrest, our house burned down, and we lost virtually everything. That was over a year ago, and so many things have 'gone wrong' that we are on our second contractor, and our house is not expected to be completed until the end of August.

We have landlords at our temporary residence who seem to be completely insensitive to our predicament, and are trying to make us leave at the end of this month (June, 2020) despite faithful rent payments, under the (likely false) guise of wanting to "move in" for the summer, even though they have another residence. I believe that their actions are unlawful, but with all the stress of rebuilding during a pandemic, and the extreme need for isolation that we have, it is impractical for me to make a court appearance and fight this at this time. We have no viable options for relocating for just a couple of months until our house is rebuilt, since we have no furniture, and our chances of finding a furnished house for just two months is extremely small. It is not safe for us to move into a hotel where we would not be able to cook our own food and continue our strict isolation. The last thing people at risk need to do is try to find another place to live at this time when legally contesting an eviction is, in itself, dangerous. In cases like ours, where no laws have been broken, and moving could well be a matter of life and death, an extended and *expanded* moratorium on evictions would likely help to save lives and reduce stress for our community's most vulnerable.

There is so much more I could explain about this, but I will refrain. My point is that anyone who is at high risk right now should not be forced to relocate. We need your help in order to stay safe.

Sincerely,

Laurel R. Skelton

[laurelskelton@gmail.com](mailto:laurelskelton@gmail.com)