

Dear Legislators,

My testimony is in support of extending Oregon's eviction moratorium and rent arrears repayment in order to support renting households around the state and prevent housing instability and homelessness.

The University of California-Berkeley's Turner Center has estimated that there are **over 240,000 renter households in Oregon whose employment has been affected by Covid-19**. Half of those households were already rent burdened --paying too much of their monthly income on housing to be able to afford other necessities-- even before the Covid-19 pandemic. Turner estimates the aggregate rent for just these very low income, rent burdened tenants at \$140 million per month.

Likewise, based on surveys of multifamily property owners and Census figures on renter households, Portland Housing Bureau has estimated Portland renters alone may be in arrears as much as \$60 million each month--with low income and BIPOC households the most likely to be in danger of losing their homes. [this information was shared in the PHB renter household stability emergency workgroup] These missed payments have already gone on for 3 months.

These numbers are daunting--yet according to Multifamily Northwest, at least 85% of renters are continuing to pay their rent-- prioritizing their housing costs and attempting to maintain stability during incredibly difficult times. Oregon's renters are not on a 'rent holiday'--they are struggling to balance among basic needs for themselves and their families.

We all recognize the need for rent support, but emergency funding will not be sufficient nor timely to quickly backfill the rent arrears of our most vulnerable renting families around the state.

With the eviction moratorium expiring and back rent due, thousands and thousands of households may become houseless in our communities. The costs in the near and long term of that outcome would be dire-- not only financially, but for the well-being and health of families and communities around the state.

We all came together to stay home and flatten the curve of infection. We cannot now leave our most vulnerable community members, with the 'pre-existing conditions' of low-wage work and high housing costs, to face a steep curve of eviction and homelessness. To do so would prolong our crisis economically and socially, and endanger our public health.

I urge you to extend the eviction moratorium and rent arrears repayment time statewide now.

Lisa K. Bates

Multnomah County resident

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~this is not my university email account~ If you want to talk Portland State business, catch me at [lkbates@pdx.edu](mailto:lkbates@pdx.edu)

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