



June 22, 2020

Dear Co-Chairs Courtney and Kotek, Vice Chairs Girod and Drazan, and Members of the Committee,

The Fair Shot For All Coalition is a partnership of racial and gender justice organizations and labor unions who came together with a clear recognition that our economy is broken and the status quo simply doesn't work for many of us--women, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), LGBTQ communities, immigrants and working families.

The Fair Shot for All coalition is deeply concerned about the impact of COVID-19 on our communities, who are disproportionately sick and dying during this pandemic. We are also disproportionately impacted by the economic fallout from this pandemic, and will feel the health and economic impacts of this crisis longer. We offer the following positions for your consideration on a number of the LCs that have recently been posted in order to address some of these concerns immediately.

Housing - Support LC 45 (sections 1-6)

Today, households across Oregon are making impossible choices with limited resources to pay their rent and meet basic needs during this public health crisis. Some households are paying rent with a credit card. We know that unless the Legislature takes action, Oregon will see what other states are seeing – an avalanche of evictions for non-payment of rent, and homelessness.

Today, in Oregon, renters are disproportionately Black, Indigenous, and people of color. Within the City of Portland alone, 3 in 4 Black households rent their homes, and 6 in 10 Latinx households. The Legislature must enact a strong eviction moratorium, and include a repayment period to give people who rent their homes time to access rental assistance or receive their long-awaited unemployment insurance benefits, in order to repay any back rent. People with low incomes or people who have lost work due to COVID will not simply be able to repay all the back rent that is owed once the moratorium is lifted.

We urge you to extend the eviction moratorium and take legislative action to provide tenants with at least 6 months to repay unpaid rent. We believe that housing stability must be a top priority for the Legislature.

We support the eviction moratorium extension and six months repayment period included in Sections 1- 6 of LC 45.

Worker Protections - Support LC 68, OSHA Infectious Disease Standards

Oregon and OSHA to adopt an infectious disease standard to ensure workers who are continuing to show up everyday have the protections they need to reduce the risk of contracting the Coronavirus. Here are some reasons why this standard is needed:

- Oregon operates one of 21 state plans under the Federal OSHA framework, which means that we can exceed Federal Guidance to protect workers.

- Workplace outbreaks are happening across the state; many of these workplaces are comprised of majority BIPOC workers. The state has a responsibility to ensure the regulations in place are protecting the same workers we hail as heroes today throughout the duration of the Coronavirus.
- Under the Obama Administration, Federal OSHA underwent an over 5 years long process to adopt an Infectious Disease Standard to protect frontline healthcare workers from airborne pathogens. This rule was intended to be adopted in 2017. This rulemaking began after H1-N1 in 2010. When President Trump took office and adopted a “no new regulations” stance he rolled back the process to adopt the standard, and then rolled back additional PPE standards.
- There is currently no existing regulatory framework that comprehensively addresses an employer’s obligation to protect workers against airborne pathogens, like the Coronavirus.
- Guidance related to worker safety is time limited as it is largely tied to the Governor’s Executive Order. Additionally, inconsistent guidance that changes with phasing isn’t easy for employers to comply with or for workers to understand what should be done to ensure their safety.
- LC 68 calls for an emergency temporary standard to be enacted by August 1st 2020 because Oregon’s workers have been exposed for over 3 months already and need clear guidance to ensure their safety. It also calls for the agency to produce a permanent rule so that Oregon isn’t without guidance again should there be a subsequent pandemic

Race and Ethnicity Data Collection and Reporting - Support LC 45 (sections 48-50)

In the midst of COVID-19, not all counties are collecting REaL-D compliant data, and in addition, we are seeing data that is missing when it comes to the counties, which happens when labs do not receive disaggregated data from the providers who requested testing. One way to ensure quality disaggregated data is to ensure providers are collecting these data during visits with their patients. We know issues with timing, capacity and limitations to resources necessary to ensure REaL-D compliant data is collected are real, and we would welcome support the provisions in LC 45 sections 48 through 50 to begin to address this issue and to ensure these data are collected.

Protecting Education - Oppose LC 76

In these challenging times, with revenues on the decline, schools scrambling to prepare for safe reopening in the fall, and budgets facing reductions, we cannot afford to lift the virtual school enrollment cap beyond the 3% level. For every half-percent increase in the cap, school districts across the state will lose \$55.5 million.

While most districts in Oregon are working to develop equitable and high-quality distance learning options, these virtual charter schools, mostly operated by for-profit companies, are hoping to redirect school resources to their programs instead, even though their educational performance has been, as a recent Secretary of State Audit shows, abysmal. [<https://sos.oregon.gov/audits/Documents/2017-30.pdf>]

These programs also fail to serve our students equitably. They serve a mostly-white student population, typically at much higher rates than the students in their sponsoring districts. They do not provide materials in languages other than English, which challenges Oregon’s English learning students to thrive. Barriers to participation include the fact that 15% of our students do not even have internet access or the ability to study online in any case.

Oregon’s school children deserve better. Rather than redirect a huge sum of money away from the state’s 197 school districts to a handful of virtual schools, let’s invest in making sure our public education system has the support needed to serve all students equitably, safely, and well. Please vote NO on LC 76.

Fair Shot Steering Committee Members: Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon, Basic Rights Oregon, Causa Oregon, Family Forward Oregon, Oregon AFL-CIO, Oregon AFSCME, Oregon Education Association, Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN), Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon, Service Employees International Union (SEIU), United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), Unite Oregon, and the Urban League of Portland. For a full list of coalition members and to learn more visit: www.fairshotoregon.org