

From: [Foster](#)
To: [JISS Exhibits](#)
Subject: Testimony | LC 45 COVID-19 Response Omnibus Bill Sec 1-6 Eviction Moratorium
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 4:37:09 PM

Hello,

My name is Claire Rudy Foster and I am a tenant leader with Community Alliance of Tenants. I live in Portland in Multnomah County. I'm a single parent, a renter, and a self employed worker. I am submitting testimony to ask for significant expansion of the eviction moratorium to include total rent forgiveness for tenants affected by COVID-19 in Oregon. I also spoke on the phone call on Monday, June 22, 2020 at 3:30 pm.

When the moratorium was announced, I organized with other tenants in my building. I was dismayed by the predatory and misleading behavior of our landlord, Princeton Property Management. We receive frequent messages urging us to pay, threatening eviction after the moratorium ends, and discouraging tenants from organizing. This misinformation has caused panic and suggests that we will all become homeless after July or as soon as we default on a rent forbearance agreement we have been strong-armed into signing. We are thousands of dollars behind and there is no way we will be able to pay that money back, when there are no jobs and it is unsafe to return to work outside the home. Many of my neighbors are immunocompromised, so if one of us returns to work, it places everyone else in the building at risk.

We need to look at an 18-month extension with total rent forgiveness and no rent debt. The FDA has said they won't have a vaccine available until 2022. We must prepare for that milestone. Rent represented \$4.7B in Oregon in 2019; one third of renters could not pay rent in June. Many of the people in my building were laid off and still have not received unemployment support. The single federal stimulus check for \$1200 would not even cover one month of rent in Portland, where the average rent is \$1300.

Please extend the moratorium and offer rent forgiveness as well. This will prevent coronavirus deaths as well as mass evictions, the housing market collapse, and billions of dollars in debt for Oregonians. In a pandemic, housing is truly a life or death issue. Please help us get through this in one piece.

Sincerely,

Claire R. Foster