

From: [Graham Trim](#)
To: [J1SS Exhibits](#)
Subject: written testimony (LC 45.1-6 eviction moratorium) - Joint Interim Committee On The First Special Session of 2020
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 5:44:10 PM

Good afternoon co-Chairs and Members of the Committee,

I'm testifying today to urge you to extend the eviction moratorium and pass amendments relieving the backrent that so many Oregonians have accumulated during the coronavirus pandemic.

My name is Graham J. Trim. I am a renter and a dishwasher, temporarily laid off. I live in Medford and volunteer with the Community Alliance of Tenants. Before the pandemic, I was spending nearly 90% of my income on rent.

co-Chairs and Members of the committee, You know as well as I that every unhoused person was housed once, and that, if they never were, then they were homeless as children. You know as well as I that Oregon has a particularly high rate of childhood homelessness.

You know as well as I that our state's min. wage is not a living wage. You know that the pandemic has disproportionately impacted low-income Americans and communities of color.

You know as well as I that women stay in abusive relationships in order to avoid homelessness & poverty for themselves and their children. I know this because I was one of those children growing up in Oregon in the '90s. You have no excuse not to know because this phenomenon has been reported on by scholarship and media since the "last housing crisis" over ten years ago.*

You know as well as I that domestic violence has spiked during this pandemic, and you know as well as I do that that spike is about housing.

You know as well as I that survivors of domestic abuse often don't seek help because they don't trust the system we have, because not only are survivors of domestic abuse, homelessness, drug addiction and mental illness criminalized for their experiences and for not being white enough in this state that was whites-only not so long ago, not only that, but on top of that, in much of this state the only way to access resources is through dealing with police, the same people who will be executing evictions if this moratorium is allowed to expire.

6 years ago I was diagnosed with borderline personality disorder. My symptoms include sudden outbursts of rage, ineffectiveness with language during moments of emotional distress, and frequent suicide attempts. The treatment program I am in includes coaching calls and, should I not respond to my therapist's calls, wellness checks. Last fall, in the state of Texas, Atatiana Jefferson was killed by police who responded to a call to a non-emergency line for a wellness check. I asked my therapist, does it have to be cops that check on me when I'm too distressed to pick up a phone? She said there's nobody else.

How is this possible? I've been blessed with a certain degree of functionality when I'm not too stressed. You know what really stresses me out? The possibility that if I don't function well enough for this system I may be facing homelessness. What stresses me out is the idea of having to calm down because a man with a gun and a uniform tells me if i don't i'll regret it.

In conclusion, I implore you to extend the eviction moratorium. We are looking at possibly the largest mass eviction in Oregon history, and you have the opportunity to prevent that.

Graham J. Trim
2113 Poplar Dr. #1
Medford, OR 97504
541 786 7852

*https://b3cdn.net/naeh/416990124d53c2f67d_72m6b5uib.pdf
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/j.1471-6402.2009.01540.x> ;
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4196210/> ;
https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/4xkzxq/as-rental-prices-rise-women-stay-in-bad-relationships-to-survive ;
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/06/world/coronavirus-domestic-violence.html>