

From: [Liz Hearn](#)
To: [J1SS Exhibits](#)
Subject: Written testimony- rent moratorium
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 8:50:19 PM

Greetings Oregon Legislative Assembly,

Thank you for the opportunity to share about the work that I do. I work for Community Partners for Affordable Housing (CPAH), a non-profit that serves folks in Washington County and Southwest Portland.

Our mission is to create and maintain safe, healthy, and sustainable housing with services for diverse residents including families, seniors, and people with disabilities. Our resident services include eviction prevention, thriving in place services for seniors, and youth programming.

As an affordable housing provider, we do not provide rental assistance, but we assist the residents we work with in finding rental assistance in the community. I manage our resident services team whom also help residents find resources for other bills like an energy bill, so residents can stretch their monthly paycheck and pay their rent.

At CPAH we firmly believe in the importance of stable housing. We believe in order to thrive you need a safe and affordable place that you and your family can call home. This belief has never been as important as it is right now. During COVID-19, a stable home is essential. Everyone needs somewhere safe where they can shelter in place, especially if they have a family.

As a manager of a program that works directly with residents, my team and I hear frequently about how hard COVID-19 has been financially for those most vulnerable in our community. We hear stories from parents who feel they are having to choose between basic needs like childcare, food, or rent. A parent should never have to be in this difficult position. We also hear from residents about how stressful it is to not know if you are going to be able to pay rent, especially when you are unsure of the security of your job. We have heard first-hand the peace of mind a rent moratorium has given folks, especially for those who have to make difficult decisions in how to spend their money. No one should have to choose between their rent or feeding their family. We need a strong moratorium that protects everyone. If we don't act, I fear once the dust settles, we will see vulnerable members of our community lose their homes or not be able to put food on the table because they are forced to choose among their basic needs.

As a housing provider, I ask you to enact a strong eviction moratorium and repayment period that will prevent people from losing their homes.

Thank you for your time,

Liz Hearn
Resident Services Manager
Community Partners for Affordable Housing