

Hello Committee Members -

My name is Michelle Flores and I live in the Grant Neighborhood of Portland, OR. I'm reaching out to you before the June 24th Emergency Session to implore you to extend Oregon's eviction moratorium and work to create a plan to address the accumulated backrent that will put so many Oregonians at risk of houselessness in July.

During the Covid crisis, an enormous amount of renters in Oregon have lost their income and faced extraordinary hardship. Many of those renters have not been able to access rental assistance in the time allotted for them. The lifting of the governor's eviction moratorium could put hundreds of thousands of working families at risk of losing home.

My company was affected by the pandemic and was forced to cut my hours for several weeks and eventually lay me off and hire me back at a lower rate. I am grateful to have a job, but my income has been drastically cut, making it difficult to pay rent. There are no signs of going back to my regular salary, which means paying back rent in the future will be nearly impossible, as I am obviously not able to put anything into savings right now.

During the special session on June 24th, stand with me and my neighbors in calling for an extension of the moratorium. We need stronger protections from the threat of eviction due to covid. Nobody should lose their homes during this crisis.

Thank you for your time.

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-Michelle Flores