



June 23, 2020

Joint Interim Committee on the First Special Session
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Honorable Co-Chairs Kotek and Courtney,

PeaceHealth operates four hospitals and provides other critical points of access for healthcare services in Lane County. We offer comprehensive and compassionate medical services to patients from a broad geographical area, including patients who need acute and specialized care such as trauma treatment, neonatal intensive care, neurosurgery, comprehensive cardiovascular care and more. We recognize social determinants are a fundamental factor in any person's overall health and well-being—and chief among those is having a home.

We know that Oregon families and individuals are facing significant challenges during this unprecedented pandemic that prevent them from protecting themselves and others from COVID-19. Layoffs, furloughs and salary cuts have placed an immense burden on personal finances, forcing very difficult decisions about how to make ends meet. When forced to choose between paying for food, healthcare, utilities or other necessities or keeping up with rent payments, eviction is a likely outcome. Eviction nearly always sets off a downward spiral that can result in homelessness and worsening health conditions and outcomes.

We applaud your efforts to protect Oregonians by introducing the eviction moratoriums and foreclosure protections in LC 45.

Sincerely,

Meghan McCarthy

Meghan McCarthy, MBA, MPH, FACHE, Doctorate of Healthcare Administration
PeaceHealth System Director of Community Health