

Oregon Coalition of Christian Voices

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June 23, 2020

Co-chairs Courtney and Kotek, Co-Vice Chairs Girod and Drazan, and Members of the Joint Interim Committee on the First Special Session of 2020:

I am writing on behalf of Oregon Coalition of Christian Voices, regarding the provisions in LC45 relating to those at risk of losing their housing due to the financial impact of COVID19.

As people of faith we take our lead from scripture, which tells us that in a just society there is a commitment to the well-being of all, and particularly those most at risk. We all know that our neighbors experiencing loss of income due to COVID19 are among those most at risk, as they face possible eviction and homelessness. We therefore support the provisions in LC45 that will help them maintain their housing.

Specifically, we support the provisions that would extend the moratorium on evictions, would provide for a repayment period for back rent that came due during that time, and would provide homeowners with foreclosure protections. We would look to our legislators to assure that these protections and provisions are available to those who are truly financially disadvantaged due to loss of income during this crisis, and not to those who are not suffering undue hardship.

Given the number of our neighbors who were already struggling to maintain safe housing, or were unsheltered before COVID19, it becomes even more of a moral imperative as well as a matter of common sense that stable housing must be one of our highest priorities. We encourage you to support those provisions in LC45 that will prevent even more of our neighbors from falling into the spiral of homelessness.

Thank you for all you are doing to address the most urgent needs of Oregon citizens during this time of crisis.

Respectfully,

Karen Nettler, Board Chair
Oregon Coalition of Christian Voices