

Co-Chairs President Courtney & Speaker Tina Kotek, Co-Vice Chairs Sen. Girod and Rep. Drazen, and members of the committee,

There are many important and compelling reasons to extend the moratorium and to use that time to find any and all supports necessary to help folks most severely impacted by the housing crisis, the pandemic, and systemic inequality to maintain their housing stability. Long term, this is the right move for landlords and property owners as well; when students, seniors, and workers are housed, economics improve across the board and costs go down.

- The eviction moratorium has been working. The overwhelming majority of Oregon renters have been paying all or part of their rent. Even in the face of astonishing job losses we've done a good job in Oregon to prevent a new wave of homeless children, families, and individuals. We must not let that protection expire.
- There should be a landlord compensation fund that helps smaller landlords with back rent so they won't have to evict.
- Our Black and Brown neighbors are at the greatest risk of lifelong harm from the COVID evictions. Discriminatory housing policies have homeownership difficult and inaccessible, leaving people of color at higher risk of rental evictions even as higher rates of COVID exposure are leaving people ill and economically stressed.
- Families need stability to provide for their children's education. More than one in five families with children who rent their homes say they may not be able to pay next month's rent. Oregon already has one of the highest rates of student homelessness in the country. We cannot force families whose children have been learning remotely to lose stability, internet connection and the ability to keep their education going in the pandemic.
- Oregon's renting families have hung on this long. We cannot take away their lifeline now. We promised Oregon renters that they wouldn't lose their homes during the pandemic. We need to keep that promise

Sincere thanks,
Nate Ember
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