



Date: December 17, 2020

To: Joint Committee on the Third Special Session of 2020

Re: Support for LC 18 (12/15/2020) extending eviction moratorium and the rental assistance program

The Oregon Education Association represents over 41,000 educators and education service professionals across the state, from pre-K to the community college level. Daily, our members see the impacts of food and housing insecurity, poverty, and systemic racism have on their students. Dealing with any of these issues in their lives makes it harder for students to learn and thrive. LC 18 would help students, their families, and community members who face housing insecurity. That is why OEA supports LC 18 (12/15/2020) and urges its passage.

There is not a community in this state that has not been affected by COVID-19. Losses of jobs, childcare, and access to services due to the pandemic, has created a multi-faceted crisis that our community has not faced in almost 100 years. Loss of housing would only compound the economic, social and health catastrophes the state already faces. It is critical that every level of government do everything in its power to mitigate housing insecurity in any way it can to ensure that these crises are not exacerbated.

Furthermore, housing insecurity and COVID-19 disproportionately affect Black, Indigenous and People of Color communities, making protection against housing insecurity a clear racial justice issue. Failure to act would only serve to further the systemic racism that has been a part of our housing system for generations.

While the need to keep folks in their homes during this pandemic is critical, it is also critical that we support landlords as they navigate the economic impacts of COVID-19. That is why we are excited to see \$200 million being put forward to support small landlords and tenants paying back rent, alongside the extension of the eviction moratorium through June of 2021.

Even when there is a vaccine, the fallout from this pandemic will take years to overcome. Continued investment in critical services from education to food, from health care to housing, and beyond, will be critical to the healing process for our communities. LC 18 is a critical step in our state's recovery process.

OEA urges passage of LC18 (12/15/2020).