

Houseless in Oregon is at epidemic proportions. This past year I moved from Lincoln County, a rural county, where houselessness was most apparent on street corners in Newport where (mostly men) were asking for help, but where many families with children are living without a permanent place to call home. I now live in Portland, where houselessness is more visible because of the large number of folks living in tents and vehicles. Now, with the coronavirus, more people are unable to work and without sufficient income to pay rent, either because of job loss or having to care for children who are not attending in-person school. The rent moratorium has been a lifeline.

There is an end in sight to the pandemic, but this winter is seeing a dramatic increase in Covid-19 cases and in businesses closing either permanently or temporarily. It is important that the rent moratorium be extended so that more families do not lose their homes. It is also important to assist landlords who are being asked to not evict those who can't pay their rent. The legislature must step in with assistance. The coldest weather is not with us yet, and the surge in Covid cases will continue through the winter. These are extreme times that call for extreme measures.

Sincerely,

Nancy Campbell Mead

National NOW Advisory Board Member

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