

Dear Legislators:

I live downtown only a block from SEVERAL homeless camps—and they have been growing this Fall, not shrinking. And I'm seeing more Black and Brown people move in. Our Black and Brown neighbors are at the greatest risk of lifelong harm from the COVID evictions. As you know, 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.

It is heartbreaking to see homeless families moving to my neighborhood too! 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 and I urge you to pass LC 18.

Thanks,

Mary Vogel

Mary Vogel, CNU-A



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