

Dear Co-Chairs President Courtney & Speaker Kotek, Co-Vice Chairs Sen. Girod and Rep. Drazen, members of the Committee:

The Coalition of Community Health Clinics (CCHC) is a partnership of 17 safety-net clinics in the Portland metro region that provide a range of health and preventive services for low-income, houseless, uninsured, and under-served community members. Over half of our clinics' patients earn less than the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), and nine out of ten are under 200% of the FPL.

We strongly support LC 18 as an essential tool to protect the health and well-being of the people our clinics serve. Without an extension on the eviction moratorium and support for families and individuals that have suffered economic harm during this incredibly difficult year, we will see displacement and homelessness that will have a devastating impact on the health of Oregonians.

Our clinics see many patients experiencing housing instability, and know that the safest place for people to be in a pandemic is home. Oregonians will be at higher risk of COVID if they lose their homes, and our communities will see increased COVID cases. These evictions will fall disproportionately on Oregonians who are Black, Indigenous and People of Culture (BIPOC), increasing the disparities in our state.

Please pass LC 18 in the December 2020 special session to protect the thousands of Oregonians who are at risk of losing their homes this winter in the middle of a deadly pandemic.

Sincerely,

Mara Gross
Interim Executive Director
Coalition of Community Health Clinics

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Mara Gross (*she/ her*)
Interim Executive Director
Coalition of Community Health Clinics
503-546-4991 - www.coalitionclinics.org