

As an Oregonian, a constituent, and a renter, I urge our legislators to extend the eviction moratorium for renters. Preferably through the end of 2021, but at least through the school year (to July 2021).

Housing is a basic human need. If you don't take action now – RIGHT NOW – Oregon will be facing a new wave of evictions on January 1. As most cities & counties do not have or provide adequate resources to properly assist the existing houseless population, this drastic increase of newly unhoused will create serious problems for all our communities. One can easily envision higher rates of crime as our shelters and food kitchens are forced to turn people away: thefts to combat hunger, break-ins to ward off heat/cold/rain, urine and feces in unhygienic places for lack of accessible toilets, even more drug & alcohol use (including overdoses and hospital visits) as hopelessness and lack of options wear through a person's inner resources. Worse, I fear, will be many deaths due to exposure this winter, adding on to the last gasps of COVID19's decimation.

That is why I am writing to urge you to support the proposal – I believe it is LC0018 – that will:

- Extend the eviction moratorium at the very least through the school year, to July 1, 2021
- Provide protection to both renters and landlords against financial losses from back rent:
 - Allow renters more time to pay back rent
 - Commit to protections for renters who have been unable to pay full rent
 - Create a landlord compensation fund in the event renters aren't able to pay all or part of their rent
- Discontinue requiring additional paperwork from renters when landlords apply for rent assistance for all of their tenants
- Obligate landlords to try to keep renters for which the landlord received rent-assistance

The reasons this is necessary are undeniable.

With rising COVID19 caseloads and hospitalizations, Oregon will be living with the fallout from the pandemic for some time. We did the right thing in our state by issuing an executive order that protects people from eviction. With that, Oregon made a promise that no one would lose their home because of COVID19. We made sure that people would have a place to stay safe, to isolate and quarantine, and to provide stability for their kids in remote learning. This protection has been particularly important for Black

and Latinx Oregonians who have borne the brunt of the health and financial damages from COVID19. But the current executive order that protects renters from eviction is set to expire on December 31, 2020.

While most tenants have managed to keep up with their rent during the pandemic, it's been months since the enhanced federal employment benefits ended and too many Oregonians remain out of work and out of options.

Without action, we will be facing a new homelessness crisis in the dead of winter. One in five of Oregon renting families with children say they have low confidence they can make next month's rent according to the U.S. Census Bureau Pulse Survey. 40% of Hispanic/Latino renters, 31% of Black renters and 27% of renters over 55 years old say the same. This means many families trying to do at-home schooling during COVID19 from a homeless shelter if they aren't given help.

Help that only legislators - like YOU - are in a position to make happen.

Come January, renters can be evicted if the legislature doesn't take action. Oregon's renters – college students, single adults, and families with children - have hung on this long. Do not take away their lifeline now. Everyone should have a safe and stable place to call home.

Please. Don't leave Oregon renters out in the cold this winter.