

Co-Chairs President Courtney & Speaker Tina Kotek, Co-Vice Chairs Sen. Girod and Rep. Drazen, and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Amanda Morehouse and I am writing on behalf of Human Solutions and we serve low-income and homeless families. Thank you for taking up the extending eviction moratorium and the rental assistance program during this special session. We strongly support this bill and believe it is essential for the health and wellbeing of the people we serve and for our community. We hope to avoid a wave of displacement and homelessness in our state that we have no ability to deal with and that would have a devastating impact on families and individuals.

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.

We strongly support extension of eviction moratorium through June of 2021 to help families get through the school year.

We strongly support rental assistance fund to help those tenants who will need assistance moving forward.

We strongly support the \$200 million package in this bill. There should be a landlord compensation fund that helps smaller landlords with back rent so they won't have to evict if they are in financial straits.

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.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Amanda Morehouse
Family Advocate

Pronouns: she/her/hers

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