

December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Thank you President Courtney, Speaker Kotek, Co-Chairs and members of the committee, for your time for this critical issue.

For the record my name is Eva Kronen and I urge your support of LC 18. I am in my 25<sup>th</sup> year as a Family Support Coordinator for Head Start of Lane County, a federal and state funded preschool program for low income families.

On the front page of the Register Guard (12/17), there was an article about the uncertainty of when businesses will be able to fully function again. Between the lines of the article is the under reported story of thousands of unemployed minimum wage workers who are struggling to pay their rent due to the pandemic.

Many of these workers are still without jobs. Many of them have families. Many families in Head Start of Lane County reflect this population that struggled to keep the lights on and food on the table prior to the pandemic. Then Covid-19 violently shook their fragile stability.

The Eviction Moratorium is one of the life lines for these families. Children need stability for their emotional, physical and mental development. Keeping families housed means that children can participate in schooling. We already have a high rate of homelessness in Oregon and if the Eviction Moratorium is not extended, there will be much suffering as families are forced to leave their homes and to where? There is so little housing available, affordable housing is essentially non-existent, wait lists for subsidized housing are years long.

From a public health point of view keeping families in their home is the safest option while the vaccines make their way through the state.

By extending the Moratorium and providing landlords funds to stay afloat, we are using public health department guidance and compassion in service for the greater good.

Let us remember that renters even in the best of times do not earn equity. Property owners do. Even in bad economic times, this is the Northwest and a steady stream of people are moving here and property owners will not lose money on their investments. The need to limit absentee ownership of dwellings and strong rent control legislation must be addressed imminently as the population of this state grows.

Thank you Eva Kronen, Eugene, OR