

Yes on Eviction Moratorium

Subject: Yes on LC 18

Hundreds of thousands of Oregonians are renters who have struggled financially during the COVID pandemic. I'm writing to urge you to extend the eviction moratorium and provide funding for rent assistance.

Additional talking points that you can add or adapt to your circumstance:

- COVID-19 isn't ending on December 31. Protections for people like me shouldn't either.
- The eviction moratorium should be extended through June of 2021 to help families get through the school year.
- There should be a landlord compensation fund that helps smaller landlords with back rent to help stabilize the housing market and a fund to help renters moving forward.
- The overwhelming number of renters are keeping up with their rent in Oregon despite the pandemic, job loss, and shut down communities. Assistance should be there for those who need the extra help.
- Until there are vaccines for everyone, the safest place for people to be in a pandemic is safe at home. Families and individuals will be at higher risk of COVID if we lose our homes and our communities will have increased spread of this terrible disease.
- Our Black and Brown neighbors are at the greatest risk of lifelong harm from the COVID evictions. 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.
- I have never been late with a rent payment in my life, but COVID has brought a new reality. With unemployment insurance ending and no federal assistance in sight, we need this bill to help keep us safe and in our homes during the pandemic and to also protect us from eviction and displacement.
- We have done all we can to pay our rent - using savings, making sacrifices, borrowing money. But people need help to get through this pandemic.
- The eviction moratorium has kept my family stable. We have computers and internet connection so my children can do remote learning. Without the extension we would be thrown into uncertainty and the most difficult school year of our lifetimes would become even harder, disrupting my children's education and affecting the rest of their academic career.
- I have done my part and played by the rules but with COVID, the rules have changed. If I get an eviction on my record it will make it almost impossible for me to find a new home and me/my family will suffer the effects of that for years to come. In a time like this when we are all facing an enemy larger than ourselves - this pandemic - we must come together and help each other through so that the impacts don't last a lifetime.

· Lifting eviction moratoriums increases COVID illness and death. The best prevention during the pandemic is a safe place to stay, which is why eviction moratoriums were put in place. Incidences of COVID-19 have risen in states that lifted moratoriums at 2.1 times the rate of states that maintained them. Deaths increased by 5.4 times.

· 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.

Ann Harris

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