

Chris Gorsek
State Representative
District 49



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
900 COURT ST NE SALEM, OR 97301

December 19, 2020

Joint Interim Committee On The Third Special Session of 2020
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St Ne Salem, Or 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Courtney and Kotek, members of the committee,

For the record I am State Representative Chris Gorsek from House District 49. I am writing this testimony today in support of LC18 which will extend the statewide moratorium on evictions, which expires at the end of this month, until June 30, 2021.

During the Covid 19 pandemic we have faced unprecedented disruptions in our society from the illness itself, to the loss of jobs, to the hardships of remote education and the possibility of people actually losing their homes. The eviction moratorium extension will help keep people in their homes and also provide rent assistance to landlords. With the possibility of widespread vaccinations by the end of the spring, this seems like a perfect way to help people until the pandemic begins to ease.

If this is not done at the state level citizens in our various cities and counties will face an inconsistent set of rules and regulations related to this. It also means that at least some people will begin facing evictions as early as mid-January 2021.

According to a study cited in the Journal of Urban Health: "States that have lifted their eviction moratoriums had 2.1 times higher incidence of COVID and 5.4 times the rate of COVID death. Lifting moratoriums resulted in 433,700 more COVID cases and 10,700 more COVID deaths during the study period (March 13-September 3)." Thus, not only do I believe that we must protect the least economically fortunate in our society, letting the moratorium expire will likely lead to more Covid 19 illnesses and deaths, which I believe is completely unacceptable.

Feel free to reach out to me with any questions that you might have.

Sincerely,

State Representative Chris Gorsek
House District 49