

To the Joint Committee on the First Special Session of 2020:

I am writing to show my support for HB4213, and at the same time, request that the grace period of 90 days is extended to at least six (6) months.

In my job at Lutheran Community Services Northwest (LCSNW), I work with clients from refugee and/or immigrant communities. These communities have been some of the hardest hit communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many clients are struggling to pay for rent and other necessities, such as food, bills, etc. Most of my clients are lucky in a sense though because they live in Multnomah County where they will have a 6-month grace period to repay any rent or utilities they were not able to pay during the emergency period. While it will still be difficult to pay missed months of rent in six months, it will allow them and agencies a more realistic timeframe to find funds to do this.

However, our clients who live in Washington and Clackamas Counties, that are still considered Portland Metro, and our clients around the state will not have the same "breathing room." I ask that you extend the grace period in HB4213 to at least six (6) months to give all Oregonians sufficient time to find the funds to pay back any late rental fees.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this issue.

With gratitude,
Alisa Kajikawa

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Due to the current situation with COVID-19, our offices are closed to the public. I am working from home normal hours and check my office voicemail regularly. If you need to speak to me more immediately, call my cell phone listed below. Thank you.

Alisa Kajikawa
(she/her/hers)

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