

I am writing this message to advocate that the eviction moratorium be extended beyond July. We know that evictions would not only put those evicted at risk of Corona virus, but because they would not be able to shelter in place, it would increase the risk for thousands of Oregonians. I also implore you look beyond the moratorium and take it one step further and build a rent forgiveness program for those who have lost their income due to the virus. Behind in debt to wealthy landlords and banks is not going to bode well for Oregon's economic recovery from Corona virus. What's more is the economic and health impacts disproportionately affects communities of color. Please do everything in your power to adjust to the current circumstances and do what is right for the citizens you are supposed to be advocating for.

My name is Geena Barker and I live in Portland, Oregon. I'm reaching out to you before the June 24th emergency session to implore you to extend Oregon's eviction moratorium and work to create a place to address the accumulated backrent that will put so many Oregonians at risk of homelessness in July.

During the Covid-19 crisis, an enormous amount of renters in Oregon have lost their income and have face extraordinary hardship. Many of those renters have not been able to access rental assistance in the time allotted for them. The lifting of the Governor's eviction moratorium could put hundreds of thousands of working families at risk of losing their home.

During the special session on June 24th, Stand with my and my neighbors in calling for an extension of the moratorium. We indeed stronger protections from threat of eviction due to Covid. Nobody should lose their homes during this crisis.

Thank you for your time,
Geena Barker
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