

To: Speaker Kotek, President Courtney, and members of the Joint on the First Special Session of 2020

From: Jeston Black, Director, Office of Government Relations

Date: June 24, 2020

Re: HB 4213

Multnomah County appreciates the work of the Committee to protect those who need it most at this time. A statewide moratorium on evictions and a 90 days de facto grace period to repay rent owed after the end of the declared emergency will be beneficial in reducing the number of people who become homeless due to COVID-19. We suggest the following improvements:

We request an additional provision that preserves the ability for local governments to provide additional, greater protections with regard to eviction and foreclosure protections. This allows us to protect our most vulnerable residents in ways that match our community's specific needs.

The Motel Liability Protection and the definition of "Sheltering Agreement" should be expanded to include motels that are providing space to people who are at high risk of adverse consequences from COVID and are isolating in order to avoid becoming sick.

The current language states: "House and provide goods and services to individuals who choose to or are obeying a directive to remain isolated **because of exposure to or infection by SARS-CoV-2 or who are recovering from COVID-19, ...**". This language is too narrow and should be expanded to read: "remain isolated because **they are at high risk of hospitalization or fatality from a COVID 19 infection, because of exposures to or infection...or because they are recovering from COVID-19.**" This will better capture the real-world isolation practice.