

Good afternoon,

As Chief Program Officer at Catholic Charities of Oregon, I encourage the legislature to enact House Bill 4213.

Our organization serves thousands of low-income individuals throughout the state of Oregon. Many of our clients are people of color, immigrants, refugees and formerly homeless individuals who have been particularly hard hit by lay-offs and other financial implications from the COVID epidemic.

With record numbers of homeless people in our state, throwing more renters onto the street will only worsen conditions and create trauma, poor health outcomes and long-term damage to children and people with disabilities.

Local rent assistance agencies do not have sufficient funding to help many of our clients, due to lack of funds and prioritization of their own clients. We anticipate it may take up to a year for many of the people in the community to catch up on rent once they go back to work.

Unprecedented crisis calls for unprecedented responses. Please support our renters by protecting them from eviction and allowing them sufficient recovery time.

Thank you for your consideration.
Rose Bak