

Dear esteemed committee members,

I would like to extend a word of gratitude and thanks for the tireless efforts you have put forth to keep our communities safe during this unprecedented time. I would also like to express my sentiment of thanks for giving the public (myself) the ability to present and express opinions on such a crucial matter that impacts all Oregonians.

I am a single mother to a child with special education needs. Lola was born at 25 weeks, beat an immense amount of odds, and today is celebrating her 5th birthday! She is happy, and healthy, and becoming very aware that the world has changed a great deal in the short time that she has been in it. In 2016 Lola's father died by suicide. Leaving me to be her sole caretaker teacher, friend and sometimes the bad guy. Last year, I suffered an arterial vertebral dissection and stroke. I had an aneurysm in the artery that leads to my brain and is inoperable. I have no family, no support system. It is just Lola and I. For the past 10 years I have devoted my life to the service of others and to public health efforts. I currently work at Outside In, a FQHC that serves underserved and undocumented patients as well as GLBTQ youth. I work in the Intravenous Drug User Health Center. It is there that I provide individuals with the tools and knowledge to practice harm reduction techniques, refer them to treatment if they choose, and simply provide human connection.

Last year after my stroke, I was unable to work. My rent increased to 1800.00. Subsequently, I forfeited my housing as I did not want an eviction on my record. I sent my daughter to be with her grandparents and worked tirelessly to secure safe and affordable housing for myself and my daughter.

Sadly, I am finding myself experiencing the same fears of homelessness and scarcity that I did merely one year ago.

A pandemic is no one person's fault. However, it is made clear that the systems in which we are currently operating are ineffective. Due to Lola's chronic lung disease, and my liver and neurological problems I cannot go back to work until there is a vaccine developed.

The new guidelines for the fall 2021 school year were released and it seems to me that a hybrid version of school will be the only option.

How am I to work any job without safe and consistent childcare?

I cannot work from home and care for my child.

Why should I continue to pay taxes for a job that I'm doing myself?

Portland has one of the worst housing crises in the country. Please don't throw out the most vulnerable into the street.

Please include us in the conversation on how to come up with sound, practical, and sustainable solutions to keeping us housed for the duration of this pandemic.

Respectfully

Glyceria Tsinas

"Caring for myself is not self indulgence. It is self-preservation, and that is an act of political warfare."

-Audre Lorde

--



"Caring for myself is not self indulgence. It is self-preservation, and that is an act of political warfare."

-Audre Lorde