

Date: 6/25/2020

RE: Comment in support of HB 4213

Central City Concern (CCC) is a non-profit direct service organization that provides integrated primary and behavioral health care, supportive and affordable housing, and employment services to people impacted by homelessness in the Tri-County area. Central City Concern operates about 2,100 units of affordable housing, serves 9,000 patients annually through our 13 Federally Qualified Health Centers, makes 1,200 job placements annually. **Our programs and properties span Districts 33,36,42,43,44,45,46,47,48 and 50**

“Right now the individual success gained through the CCC Flip the Script program helping people of color who are recently released from prison achieve self-sufficiency is in jeopardy due to lay offs, rent payments, car payments, food, and child care, our work to get these people stable is being crumbled.”
Billy Anfield, Advocacy Coordinator, Flip the Script

“Most of the people affected by COVID-19 were already struggling and living check to check. While the six month grace period to repay an owed balance is amazing it is not enough. Some of these people will return to work but not at full-time. Some will not return to work at all. When you are already struggling and check to check you will not all of a sudden have extra money to repay what you owe. This will potentially lead to mass evictions and create a larger homeless population in the state of Oregon. Please consider this as you meet. Six months alone is not enough. The people need rent assistance and a chance to access it.” *Ryan Fisher, Program Operations and Support Manager, Supportive Housing*

Avoid massive housing related debt and evictions with extensions for repayment and rent assistance for at least the next 6 months, if not longer

- The Latest round of rent assistance hasn't even made it to local communities yet, the unemployment backlog still being worked through and counties are not finished with their re-opening plans, now is not the time to start evicting people for non-payment of rent.
- Please also make changes to current state laws that allow and encourage landlords to deny housing based on past evictions, past due rent and criminal backgrounds,
- Without these actions, COVID will create housing instability for the next decade or more, keeping us in a homeless state of emergency

“I know that many CCC clients have been impacted by the pandemic. The more the State can prioritize the lowest income, vulnerable people to be supported in receiving services, staying stable in



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income/housing, and feeling safe in their community, the better.” *E.V. Armitage, Executive Coordinator, CCC Administration*

“Fairly soon the already homeless will be joined by hundreds/thousands of people who are currently hanging on with the help of aid which will not last forever!! Helping them as well as getting more homeless currently off the streets should be one of your bigger priorities. The other should be riding the wave of taking police budgets and using zero balance budgeting making them accountable for their services!! The other more complex issue is how to change the culture at the "street cop" level. Portland where I live and work now has their fifth African American chief of police. No matter how good their intention without change in the culture of how the street cop functions you will continue to have homeless and mentally ill citizens killed in confrontations which can be avoided. How do you plan to address this?? That will judge just how effective this session will be!!” *Robert Gabrish, Resident Services, Estate Hotel*

Thank you,
Mercedes Elizalde
Public Policy Director
Central City Concern