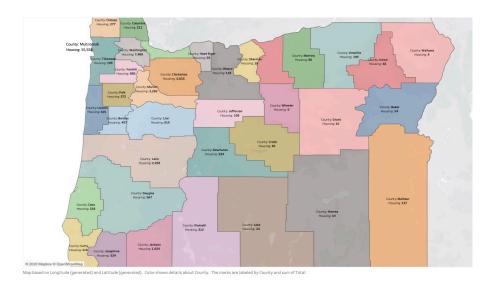
## December 19, 2020

Joint Interim Committee on the Third Special Session Oregon Legislature 900 Court Street NE Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chair Courtney, Co-Chair Kotek, Co-Vice-Chair Girod, Co-Vice-Chair Drazan and Members of the Committee,

Since February, 211info has seen a 250% increase in calls statewide as COVID-19 continues to negatively impact Oregon's communities—a negative impact felt especially by individuals and families with low incomes who have lost work or income due to the pandemic. Of these calls, 76,000 are related to housing needs.



Almost half of the individuals who called 211info about housing are in need of rental assistance. That is almost double the pre-pandemic volumn. The percentage of calls related to rental assistance has held relatively steady over the last nine months as Oregonians continue to remain unemployed as a result of the pandemic.





Along with rent assistance calls, 211info continues to receive calls from individuals who are in need of housing, whether it be a warm and safe place to sleep that night in the form of a shelter bed or hotel voucher, or something more permanent such as locating affordable housing and rental/security deposit assistance.

Based on call volume, it is very clear that a significant number of Oregonians have struggled to pay their rent since the start of the pandemic and are therefore at risk of being evicted when the Governor's current moratorium expires. Should those individuals lose their current housing, Oregon runs the risk of increasing the number of individuals experiencing homelessness. This has the potential for dire consequences in light of the winter surge in COVID-19 cases across the state. We know that the safest place for people to be in a pandemic is safe at home—ending the current eviction moratium places individuals and families at higher risk of contracting and spreading COVID-19.

211info urges you to pass LC 18, extending the current eviction moratorium and providing rent assistance, to ensure that Oregon's most vulnerable citizens have a safe place to stay during the COVID-19 pandemic.