

For the record, my name is Alexander Rhodes and I am a board member here on behalf of Community Alliance of Tenants and we serve Renters all across Oregon. Thank you for taking up bill LC 18. We strongly support this bill is essential for the health and well being of the people we serve and for our community to avoid a wave of displacement and homelessness in our state that we have no ability to deal with and that would have a devastating impact on families and individuals.

Already we are seeing evictions happen in places like Houston, Texas with people's belongings thrown out on the street, showing that the current protections are running out. Imagine a single mother having to explain to their child why their neighbors are becoming homeless. How people are being forced out of their homes during a global pandemic for no fault of their own.

Even during normal times, there is no cause evictions happening non stop, I was myself a victim of an indifferent landlord. Don't give landlords the power to destroy livelihoods in this critical time. This should be the time when we stand together.

Here is what's at stake in the coming weeks. The [most recent data shows](#) that in Oregon between 27,700 households face risk of eviction if the moratorium isn't extended with an estimated rent shortfall of between \$155 to 274 million. The \$150 landlord compensation fund and the \$50 million tenant assistance package will go a long way to ensuring that families can stay safe in their home during the COVID pandemic until we have more vaccines for everyone. Furthermore, Our Black and Brown neighbors are at the greatest risk of lifelong harm from the COVID evictions. Discriminatory housing policies have made homeownership difficult and inaccessible, leaving people of color at higher risk of rental evictions even as higher rates of COVID exposure are leaving people ill and economically stressed. For example, according to the U.S. Census Pulse Survey, 30% of Black renters are at risk of eviction because of concerns they can't pay next month's rent.

Oregon's renting families have hung on this long. We cannot take away their lifeline now. We promised Oregon renters that they wouldn't lose their homes during the pandemic. We need to keep that promise.

Thank you for your consideration.

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