

Co-Chairs President Courtney & Speaker Tina Kotek, Co-Vice Chairs Sen. Girod and Rep. Drazen, and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Andrés and I am senior policy advisor for Commissioner Eudaly. Thank you for taking up this measure to extend the eviction moratorium. We strongly support this bill is essential for the health and wellbeing 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.

While the vaccines arriving in Oregon bring us all hope, we know that COVID-19 isn't ending on December 31. Until every single person in Oregon can get vaccinated, we must continue to provide protections for families and individuals that have suffered economic harm during this very difficult year, many of whom are the frontline workers whether in hospitals or grocery stores, who are making it possible for us to get through this.

We strongly support the \$200 million package in this bill. There should be a landlord compensation fund that helps smaller landlords with back rent so they won't have to evict if they are financial straits, and also a rental assistance fund to help those tenants who will need assistance moving forward or whose landlords don't apply for the fund.

Here is what's at stake. 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.

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.

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.

Best,
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