

Dear Representatives,

On behalf of Jesuits West and the thousands of people we serve through our schools, parishes, social ministries, and spirituality programs in the state of Oregon, I urge you to hold a special session to pass an extension of the eviction moratorium and provide \$200 million in financial assistance to tenants and landlords.

The housing crisis caused by Covid is palpable. We have seen several families leave Jesuit schools due to evictions driving them out of the community. These we're families with good paying jobs until the Covid crisis. Our food pantries and homelessness service programs have been overwhelmed with people in need, churches cannot keep up with the growing demand.

Until there are enough vaccines for everyone in our state, we need to pull together and do everything we can to help each other through.

Passage of this bill will help families, individuals and our communities. According to an article in the Journal of Urban Health, states that have lifted eviction moratoriums have more than twice the spread of COVID-19 and more than five times the mortality.

Without action, we will be facing a new homelessness crisis in the dead of winter as families are trying to do remote schooling and hold on until the vaccine is widely available and our economy reopens. 22% of Oregon renting families with children say they have low confidence they can make next month's rent according to the 40% of Hispanic/Latino renters, 31% of Black renters and 27% of renters over 55 years old say the same.

Come January, if they can't pay rent, they can be evicted if the legislature doesn't take action. Oregon's renting families have hung on this long. We cannot take away their lifeline now.

That is why I am writing to urge that during the special session you vote YES to:

- Extend the eviction moratorium to get families through the school year - to July 1, 2021
- Provide protection to protect both renters and landlords against financial losses from back rent.
  - Extend the grace period for repayment
  - Ensure back debt can't be used to evict
  - Provide dollars for rent assistance

Thank you for everything you are doing to help Oregonians during this pandemic.

Sincerely,

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Annie Fox

Jesuits West Provincial Assistant of Social Ministry Organizing

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