

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

For the record, my name is Bianetth Valdez and I live in Multnomah County and work in Washington County. I am one of the hundreds of thousands of Oregonians who is a renter and has struggled financially during the COVID pandemic. Thank you for working to extend the eviction moratorium and provide funding for rent assistance so that my family and community do not pay the price of surviving this pandemic for the rest of my life.

As a street outreach worker, who works with unstably housed and homeless youth, I understand how the eviction moratorium has been helpful for our youth.

The eviction moratorium has kept many of our youth stable. Our youth have computers and internet connection so they can do remote learning, apply to jobs, attend court calls, and connect with resources they need. Without the extension, our youth would be thrown into uncertainty.

COVID-19 isn't ending on December 31. Protections for people like our youth shouldn't either. The eviction moratorium should be extended through June of 2021 to help families get through the school year. The overwhelming number of renters are keeping up with their rent in Oregon despite the pandemic, job loss, and shut down communities. Assistance should be there for those who need the extra help. Until there are vaccines for everyone, the safest place for people to be in a pandemic is safe at home. Families and individuals will be at higher risk of COVID if we lose our homes and our communities will have increased spread of this terrible disease.

Our Black and Brown neighbors are at the greatest risk of lifelong harm from the COVID evictions. Discriminatory housing policies have 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.

Lifting eviction moratoriums increases COVID illness and death. The best prevention during the pandemic is a safe place to stay, which is why eviction moratoriums were put in place. Incidences of COVID-19 have risen in states that lifted moratoriums at 2.1 times the rate of states that maintained them. Deaths increased by 5.4 times.

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 and I urge you to pass LC 18.

Thank you,

**Bianetth Valdez** (she/her/ella) [Why are pronouns important?](#)

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