

Testimony in general support for the bills that will be considered during the Special Session on Dec 21.

The following are my specific comments on each of the legislative concepts under consideration for the Dec 21, 2020 Special Session:

\* LC 18 -- Eviction Moratorium: In general this is a good proposal to help both tenants and landlords. However, the Legislature must enact legislation and demand administrative policies that require the landlord bailout to be given first to small-business landlords who own only a few homes or apartments. The big landlords that have multiple large holdings do not need to be bailed out by our tax dollars. I also think that renters should be allowed to set up payment plans with their landlords to ease their financial burden when the moratorium is over. I strongly agree that landlords who get 80% of their money from the state need to write-off the remaining 20%.

\* LC 10 -- Restaurant Support Package: In general this is a good proposal to help restaurants. The limit on how much third-parties can charge a restaurant for delivery and pick-up services is extremely important and should be continued after the pandemic is over. This legislation must also ensure that the containers will be tamper resistant and that all necessary precautions to keep alcohol from minors will be taken. I think a provision should be added for the OLCC to consider/study whether the provisions in this bill should be extended when restaurants are allowed to resume in-person dining.

\* LC 21 -- School Liability Protection: I understand the desire to protect school districts from "frivolous lawsuits" but this legislation must clearly state that these protections would not apply when schools and school districts have engaged in reckless, wanton, or intentional misconduct. I fully support whistleblower protections.

\* LC 28 -- Emergency Funding: I fully support this legislation. I also think that strong efforts must be made to get the federal government to provide necessary funds to the states. Hopefully, this will become a reality after January 20, 2021.

I am very disappointed that the Legislature will NOT consider the following vital issues in this Special Session. I strongly urge you to make these issues a priority for the 2021 Legislative Session:

\* Disconnecting Oregon's tax system from the CARES Act tax breaks that primarily benefit the top 1% of Oregon earners (LC-2). This would allow the state to recoup many millions of dollars from people and businesses that can well afford to pay their fair share. Oregon should disconnect from all the tax breaks that the Trump Administration pushed through Congress. The rich simply must pay their fair share.

\* Enacting Police Accountability legislation that would make all Oregonians, especially people of color, much safer than we are today. The legislation developed by the Legislative BIPOC Caucus needs to be given top priority. The legislators who developed these concepts know what they are talking about and we must put their work into law. Without this legislation I do not think we can ever move beyond the systemic racism in our nation, state, and local communities.

Sincerely,

Cheryl J. McDowell

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