

Good evening,

I am writing to inform you, as both a social services employee and citizen of Central Oregon, about the critical nature of the eviction moratorium for residents in Crook, Jefferson, & Deschutes County. The nonprofit organization I work for has currently been tasked with distributing mortgage/rent/utility financial assistance to provide relief to households with a Covid-impact. Many, many folks have suffered lay-offs, contracted the virus themselves, been forced to isolate/quarantine without compensation due to coming into contact with a positive Covid case, or suffer from chronic conditions which make them a more vulnerable population to the coronavirus.

Our organization is one of two major CBOs in the area to distribute funds, in conjunction with NeighborImpact who has currently run out of funds, and our limited staffing capacity combined with overwhelming requests can cause delays in getting funds out the door. The eviction moratorium has allowed us to continue to provide temporary financial relief to struggling households while they work to get back on their feet while stalling the added fear and stress of possible late fees or evictions. Without the moratorium, late fees & evictions will only lead to further financial struggle for many households, a rise in homelessness, and increased spread of the coronavirus.

I implore you to consider the implications that not extending the moratorium will create. Oregonians need the support of their state lawmakers at this time. As the virus reaches the highest numbers seen yet across Central Oregon, within the state, and nationally, now more than ever we need laws that protect the housing and wellbeing of its citizens. We depend on you to be our voice and advocates, and we will strive to be the same for folks in each of our neighborhoods as we continue to fight these pandemic challenges together.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Emily Beck