

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

I'm asking you to further extend the eviction moratorium, but beyond that, to work toward canceling people's rent and mortgage debts. There is no way that low wage workers who have lost jobs months ago will be able to recoup the money that they've lost. This is a very difficult time to find new employment and the jobs are just not there.

There is no plan for what will happen to these people after they are evicted, because they won't be able to rent a new place to live in their circumstances. If people are lucky, they'll be able to stay with friends in overcrowded conditions (during a raging pandemic) or live in their cars.

I'm a renter too, and I work in social services with formerly homeless people. I know it is so much better to keep people housed than to scramble to provide them with services once they are homeless. Please, do everything you can to prevent this huge increase of homelessness that will surely come.

Sincerely,
Emily Schnipper
Peer Wellness Specialist and Resident Services Coordinator
Portland