

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

From: Jeanette DeCastro and family - including two kids, two grandparents, and two parents living in Clackamas, Oregon

This year has been difficult for us, and we have many blessings. My spouse and I are both employed and my 9 year old has adjusted to Distance Learning. We've also had dental bills, car repairs, and emergency plumber calls. These are all petty in comparison -- It's been intensely difficult for so many of our neighbors and community.

I am writing in support of extending the eviction moratorium. It's not difficult to imagine being houseless. One bad luck thing can happen - or sometimes several in succession.. It's really not about my neighbor's morals or choices. It's that the margins are so tight. For example, the loss of a job and health insurance could have me deciding between buying insulin (without insulin I die) or putting a roof over my kid's heads. I am confident that our family being houseless would cause my 79 year old mother-in-law to die because she requires dialysis and a special diet to live. Tents are not ADA compliant for my father-in-law, who uses a walker to get around.

I support this extension of the eviction moratorium because it will help my community to stay stable, warm, educated, and fed. Having a place to live means precious time (limited for all, more so if you're houseless) can be spent cooking warm meals and following up with health care needs. It means access to sanitation. The eviction extension must go until at least June 2020, to allow students to complete their school year. COVID-19 has already rocked kid's worlds - keep them in their homes! I also support rent assistance that is targeted toward landlords who have few or just one property. It is my hope that larger property rental companies with healthy balance sheets can make concessions in these pandemic times - including prorating rent for their tenants.

I hope my personal example has shown that a crisis - so common during COVID-19 and the wildfires - could certainly push my family to really difficult choices. I hope that Oregonians will show compassion to their neighbors and enthusiastically support extending the eviction moratorium.

**Thank you for considering my testimony, and take care.
Jeanette DeCastro**