My story with the rent crisis

I've been a long time houseless advocate and activist, but I also have been impacted by the rent crisis we are facing. I lost half my income (a GIG job) in March due to the pandemic and recently, after 8 months of applying for unemployment, was denied because of a glitch in the unemployment computer system. I owe thousands, spent my little savings that I had and maxed my credit cards. I have student loans that are a burden. I am also in a high risk category for covid so my doctors told me to only work online. This limits what I can look for in work.

Coming from a poor to working class background this might end any chances I had at buying a tiny home which was also my only chance at
buying a home.   I've been a renter my whole life. My rent has gone
up $400 the last couple of years for a studio. I can't tell you how
terrible it is for renters right now.   I have lived in Portland since
1998 and the gentrification has been unfathomable the past five years and now we have massive rent evictions looming.

I am not alone in this and as a white person with white privilege I am keenly aware that this is much worse for BIPOC people.

My job was shut down. I was told to stay home to keep myself and others safe, but I have been denied assistance. Loosing housing during the pandemic should not happen to anyone. This is simply unconscionable.

We need the rent moratorium extended now. We need rent forgiveness and help for landlords now.

Thank you,
Jessica Chapman