

Written Testimony

12-17-2020

Joint Interim Committee On The Third Special Session of 2020 sent
via J3SS.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Subject Line: Yes on LC 18

Co-Chairs President Courtney & Speaker Tina Kotek, Co-Vice Chairs Senator Girod
and Representative Drazen, members of the Committee

On behalf of Metropolitan Family Service, serving Multnomah, North Clackamas and Washington counties, I strongly support this bill as it is essential for the health and well-being of the people we serve and for our community to avoid a new wave of displacement and homelessness in our state.

As an organization, we engage with 30,000 Oregonians, the majority of whom depend on income from work, and who do not have savings to fall back on. As jobs are lost and hours are reduced, we are increasing our support in whatever way possible. Our hunger relief sites are seeing longer lines, and increased requests for help with basic needs, utilities and rent are being voiced now; if the moratorium ends, there will be a higher number of people in this very tenuous and risky situation.

The communities we serve include many cultures and encompass all ages as we offer support, skills and resources to build prosperity and health across the lifespan. This is a time to accelerate access to resources in order to serve this goal with full integrity.

It is also abundantly clear that those who are suffering are predominately from the BIPOC community, those who are older, and those who experience disabilities. Without the extension, we would be turning our backs on the real and pressing need to see, act and move forward to address serious disparities in our state.

The nonprofit sector, of which MFS is a part, is able to leverage some funds to assist only a portion of those who need our help in order to remain able to sustain their housing.

If the moratorium lifts, we do not foresee other avenues for assistance for the individuals, children and families who turn to us for help and this is of grave concern to us at this time. Please support LC 18.

Judy Strand, CEO

Metropolitan Family Service

Portland, Oregon