

12-16-20

Re: Yes on LC 18

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

Working in health care is no guarantee you'll be able to pay the rent. My employer cut the pay of nearly 6,000 in May and it could happen again. I work in psychiatric emergency services, graveyard shift, doing behavioral health assistance. I'm just trying to keep things moving and doing everything I can to keep up with the rent because my landlord has said things that make it clear he wants to raise the rent and I think if he could evict me, he would. There are so many people working in health care who are in the same situation and it just isn't right.

Those of us who are working during this pandemic need more support. For the past nine months we have been living through hell and frankly sometimes it feels as if we're on our own. As we walk into daily dangerous situations and wait for the vaccine to reach all of us, the psychological, physical and financial stress is immense. We don't need to be called heroes. We just need the security of knowing that if we fall a little bit behind during COVID, we won't lose our homes.

Please vote yes on this proposal and help people like us who are working so hard during this difficult time.

Kenneth Wilson, Portland