

Hello!

I apologize this is coming in late on the 16th, but I was reached out to and asked to share a bit to advocate in support for keeping families from being evicted during COVID.

While i am in a position that I can work from home, I am a single mom who has 4 children at home still. Three are adults, and face medical/and developmental disabilities.

I have been advocating for renters on various levels during COVID, primarily focusing on the air quality in residential buildings during COVID. As a renter though, and a mom of adult children with disabilities, I am aware of the challenges many families face in the State of Oregon regarding rentals, especially when it comes to housing and protecting some of the most socially vulnerable. I understand that COVID has impacted renters on many levels, and many in homeless camps that are being evicted and removed from areas in a time we are also being asked to stand still.

COVID has been devastating to so many on so many levels. It is difficult enough to go to bed at night wondering how we will put food on the tables with reduced hours, or no hours, at work, long waits to get unemployment benefits, and the glaring reality of how broken our SNAP/TANF system is as many are having to turn to the the state to help make ends meet, or as come close together as they possibly can. To add the fear of where they will sleep, is inhumane.

While I understand that owners need to pay their bills as well, and we definitely need to help owners find some respite as well in this trickle down financial crisis so many face, we can not simply just turn our eyes away from so many and believe that because one simply doesn't have to deal with the crisis taking place in so many homes tonight, that it doesn't exist. It does.

Please do everything in your power to address this crisis, even though it means tackling the difficult questions. I know this isn't an easy task we are asking the state to take on, but it is a very real task we need our elected officials to address in such a time as COVID.

Please do not turn away.

Sincerely,

Liana West