

I am against evictions of any sort during the pandemic.

As an Oregonian, I am writing to urge you to extend the eviction moratorium for renters through the school year and give renters a fair chance to pay back rent. Like the air we breathe and the food we eat, home is a basic human need. If you don't take action now - before the New Year - Oregon will be facing a new wave of evictions and homelessness and people will suffer.

That is why I am writing to urge you to support the proposal that will:

- Extend the eviction moratorium to get families through the school year - to July 1, 2021 • Provide protection to both renters and landlords against financial losses from back rent:

- Give people more time to pay back rent

- Providing protections for renters who have been unable to pay full rent

- Creating a landlord compensation fund in the event renters aren't able to pay all or part of their rent

The reasons this is necessary are clear. With rising COVID caseloads and hospitalizations, Oregon will be living with the fallout from the pandemic deep into next year. We did the right thing in our state by issuing an executive order that protects people from eviction. With that, Oregon made a promise that no one would lose their home because of COVID. We made sure that people would have a place to stay safe, to isolate and quarantine, and to provide stability for their kids in remote learning. This protection has been particularly important for Black and Latinx Oregonians who have borne the brunt of the health and financial damages from COVID. But the current executive order that protects renters from eviction is set to expire on December 31, 2020.

While most tenants have managed to keep up with their rent during the pandemic, the signs of strain are starting to show. It's been months since the enhanced federal employment benefits ended and too many Oregonians remain out of work and out of options.

Without action, we will be facing a new homelessness crisis in the dead of winter. Imagine trying to do at-home schooling during COVID from a homeless shelter. But that's what people are facing. One in five of Oregon renting families with children say they have low confidence they can make next month's rent according to the U.S. Census Bureau Pulse Survey. 40% of Hispanic/Latino renters, 31% of Black renters and 27% of renters over 55 years old say the same.

Come January, if they can't pay rent, they can be evicted if the legislature doesn't take action. Oregon's renting families have hung on this long. We cannot take away their lifeline now. Everyone needs a safe and stable place to call home.

Please. Don't leave Oregon renters out in the cold this winter. Do the right thing and take action now.

Sincerely,

Ms. Linda Meier