



Joint Committee on the Third Special Session of 2020
Testimony in Support of LC 18
Extending eviction moratorium and the rental assistance program

December 16, 2020

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

On behalf of the Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force, I am pleased to submit testimony in support of LC 18 to extend the eviction moratorium and provide rental assistance to Oregon renters.

SATF is a statewide, nonprofit organization whose mission is to improve the response to and prevention of sexual violence in Oregon.

Housing stability is essential to reducing the impacts of sexual violence across our state, as housing insecurity and homelessness increases the risks of perpetration. The increased risk of perpetration, coupled with COVID, will cost us lives and further burden our healthcare, criminal justice, and emergency housing systems.

Until there are vaccines for everyone, the best prevention during the pandemic is a safe place to stay, which is why eviction moratoriums were put in place. Incidences of COVID-19 have risen in states that lifted moratoriums at 2.1 times the rate of states that maintained them. Deaths increased by 5.4 times.

Oregon's renting families have hung on this long. We cannot take away their lifeline now. We promised Oregon renters that they wouldn't lose their homes during the pandemic. We need to keep that promise.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony, and for all of your hard work to address COVID and the housing crisis across Oregon. We urge your support of LC18.

Respectfully,

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