

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

My name is Mike Grigsby-Lane and I have been deeply affected by the COVID pandemic and am so grateful to state lawmakers and Governor Brown for taking up the cause of extending the eviction moratorium and providing rental assistance. I could never have imagined myself in this position by like tens or possibly hundreds of thousands of Oregonians, I am living in a new COVID reality.

I am a responsible person. I have been working since I was 13 years old. I've never been in a situation like this but COVID blew up my entire world. I have been doing everything I can to keep up with rent since my husband died earlier this year. He had several COVID symptoms, but they didn't do a test, so I don't know for sure.

Now I'm on my own. I'm not able to work during COVID because of pre-existing conditions that make me high risk. I've sold personal belongings, used what small savings I have, and have cut back on all expenses, including food and health care. I kept up for a while but now am a few months behind. I applied for disability in November 2019 but it typically takes Social Security 18 months to 2 years to approve a claim, so I have no income but hope to have SSI soon once Social Security has my hearing and will have rental income then.

I am not a person who frightens easily but I'll admit I am terrified I'll end up living in the back of a van if I were to be evicted. I just need a little room to breathe and if lawmakers could just give people like me more time and assistance to get back on our feet it would mean the world. Because it's clear that COVID isn't over for any of us any time soon.

Please pass LC 18. The COVID pandemic has been so devastating for so many people. We just need a little help to get us through until everyone in the state gets a vaccine and we can safely restart our economy.

Thank you.