

Hello Senators,

I am writing to urge you to care for Oregonians in need during this continuing Covid tide. Specifically, **let's make it illegal to evict people during a pandemic, and let's help renters and landlords meet their financial needs.** Please vote to do the following:

- Extend the eviction moratorium to get families through the school year - at least to July 1, 2021.
- Protect both renters and landlords against financial losses from back rent:
 - Extend the grace period for repayment
 - Ensure back debt can't be used to evict renters
 - Provide dollars for rent assistance

I'm a renter, and I've been ok paying my rent this year, but that's through sheer luck: two out of three folks in our house have been fortunate enough to keep our jobs in the pandemic. If we hadn't had that luck, I'd be asking this for myself as well as my neighbors.

Rent (and mortgage payments) already take up an insane percentage of most Oregonians' paychecks, mine included. "The real estate market" is not good for people. It's good for money—which is never distributed equitably among people. We need to solve the eviction crisis right now, and start working toward more general affordability in the long term.

I'm not talking about "low income housing," although that will certainly help some folks. **I'm talking about re-envisioning the ways we think about people and about business.** Everyone deserves a comfortable home. Everyone who wants one. Period. How can we help that happen? Is it a universal basic income? Is it rent controls? I don't know, but I want you to think about it too, and research it, and help us figure it out.

Thank you for everything you are doing to help Oregonians: during this pandemic, before, and after. I appreciate your work, and **I encourage you to imagine more radically what you can do to create the conditions for hope, stability, and prosperity for all of us.**

Sincerely,
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