

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

I'm Taylor Wallau, and I am a tenant in Northeast Portland, Oregon. I am severely struggling due to the COVID pandemic. I am pleading with you to extend the eviction moratorium and to provide funding for rent assistance so that my family and I do not pay the price for surviving this pandemic for the rest of my life.

COVID 19 will NOT end on December 31st. Although there is a vaccine, it won't be available to the general public for several months, and our economy will not be "back to normal" for much longer. We should not be punished and forgotten due to the tragedy of this pandemic.

I am a tenant, and I share a house with three other people on our lease. Due to major flooding that the landlord has neglected to repair, one of our roommates moved out and we are now responsible for their portion of rent. We cannot even afford our own portions of rent, since we have all been laid off from service industry jobs. If you do not extend the eviction moratorium to June 2020, thousands more people will be living on the street in the middle of winter.

Black and Brown folks are at the greatest risk of harm due to COVID and COVID evictions. Discriminatory housing policies have home ownership difficult and inaccessible, leaving people of color at higher risk of rental evictions even as higher rates of COVID exposure are leaving people ill and economically stressed.

Please, protect oppressive communities and protect the hardworking people who are out of work due to no fault of our own. Extend the eviction moratorium.

Thank you,
Taylor Wallau