

To: Joint Interim Committee on the Third Special Session of 2020
From: Terry O'Neill
Re: Eviction Moratorium

I am writing to urge you to support legislation extending a moratorium of evictions during the COVID pandemic.

In particular, please support amendments to the current bill to **end systemic racism in the way eviction protection gets implemented**. Specifically:

1. Landlords who receive state aid should not be allowed to turn around and evict tenants beginning July 2021, unless they can show they have made every good faith effort to try and keep their renters.
2. Require landlords to tell **all of their renters** what they need to do to qualify for the moratorium. Black, Indigenous, and other renters of color (BIPOC individuals) are disadvantaged by not knowing what the rules are and how to get relief. Landlords should be required to help them navigate the system.
3. Remove the requirement that tenants have to fill out a form to show how they are impacted by COVID. Landlords already have to fill out the same form, and that should be enough.
4. Require all landlords, whether they apply for assistance or not, to try and negotiate a payment plan with a one-year minimum duration, with third-party mediation assistance if they can't do it on their own.

The purpose of eviction relief should be to help renters, not humiliate or punish them when they experience financial hardship. Historically, BIPOC renters have experienced humiliation and punishment disproportionately, thanks in no small part to Oregon's awful history as a "white utopia." That needs to change.

Thank you for all you do in the face of this looming homelessness crisis.

Sincerely,
Terry O'Neill
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Terry O'Neill
Host, [What Equality Looks Like](#), a podcast about redefining equality using an intersectional feminist lens.
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