

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

I am not currently a renter in Oregon, but I work with renter households who are struggling to keep housed through this pandemic. The eviction moratorium has been the lifeline to keep them safe and stable so far, and I appreciate your efforts to extend the state-wide moratorium and provide rental assistance.

I am familiar with recent research that shows an increase in COVID related deaths where eviction moratoriums have been lifted. This is simply cruel and unnecessary. Housing is one of the most secure ways to survive this pandemic, and destabilizing households now by ending the moratorium will literally kill someone.

While it is exciting that the COVID vaccine is becoming available, it is clear it will take months to extend it to enough Oregonians to have significant impact of reducing spread. The moratorium should extend through June 2021 to give households a chance to survive the current surge, get vaccinated, and hopefully return to a (hopefully) rebounding economy. Such an extension will also help families make it all the way through the school year.

Expanding the rent assistance fund is incredibly important to help struggling families escape the hole created by having months of past-due rent, and will also help smaller landlords manage their own financial hardships.

Thank you again for bringing the eviction moratorium and rental assistance in LC 18 to the fore. I hope Oregon state electeds do the right thing and pass LC 18.

Sincerely,

William Boyd
Portland, OR 97218