

From the desk of Rep. Julie Fahey

Oregonians are counting on you. Please vote YES on HB 4401 and SB 5731 to extend the eviction moratorium and fund rental assistance to help both landlords and tenants.

HB 4401 and SB 5731 will keep families safe and stable in their homes. COVID-19 isn't ending on December 31, 2020. Protections from evictions shouldn't either.

HB 4401 and SB 5731 will help Oregon slow the spread of COVID. Eviction moratoriums help prevent the spread of, and deaths from, COVID according to recent public health research.

HB 4401 and SB 5731 are essential protections for Black and Brown Oregonians who are much less likely to own their home due to systemic barriers to home ownership and economic opportunity. In addition, we know our BIPOC neighbors have experienced the highest rates of COVID-19 infection and death.

HB 4401 and SB 5731 together reduce pressure on low-wage workers to go to work when they are sick, risking possible contagion, because they are at risk of potential eviction and homelessness.

HB 4401, and the funds included in SB 5731, come from months of effort in a workgroup with advocates, tenant groups, and landlords. It is a reasonable compromise that rises to the moment and takes an innovative approach to prioritize smaller landlords and those in greatest financial need.

HB 4401 (as LC 18) received 192 pieces of written testimony in favor and hours of oral testimony from people around the state over two extraordinary days of hearings, including nearly 50 tenants, numerous landlords, advocates, public health and elected officials, faith groups and pastors and many others.

Together, HB 4401 and SB 5731do the following:

- 1. Extend the eviction moratorium through June 2020 to help families get through the school year.
- 2. Provide \$150 million for landlords to access assistance thru one application for back rent owed by all tenants in arrears. This gives landlords 80% of back rent owed immediately rather than having to go thru the arduous process of individual court and collection action that may leave them with nothing. The program framework is included in HB 4401, and funding is included in SB 5731.
- 3. Provide \$50 million in SB 5731 in landlord assistance thru individual tenant-based application.
- 4. Protect renters from eviction, displacement, homelessness, debt and a permanent mark on their record that will keep them from housing for years to come.
- 5. Give renters more time to pay back rent if their landlord doesn't avail the compensation fund.

We support extending the eviction moratorium and providing rent relief for Oregonians harmed by the coronavirus pandemic.

