



## **Testimony in Support of LC 9**

Joint Interim Committee on the Second Special Session of 2021

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Jayesh Palshikar RN, BS

Co-Chair Beyer, Co-Chair Fahey, Co-Vice Chair Knopp, Co-Vice Chair Wallan,  
Members of the Committee:

My name is Jayesh Palshikar, I am a registered nurse, I work in acute care, on the front lines of the pandemic. Today I am testifying on behalf of Oregon Nurses Association, a professional association and labor union representing more than 14,000 registered nurses and advanced practice nurses throughout Oregon. Nursing is a science-based profession that values promoting health, quality of life and human dignity, and we support the housing safe harbor bill, LC 9. This bill will save lives.

Nurses know how important it is for people to stay in their homes because of COVID-19. ONA echoes the call for an emergency rental assistance approach that provides safe harbor for tenants who have applied for rental assistance, including wholly covering time of the application; that extends the 10-day notice of nonpayment requirement; and that provides funds for continued access to rental assistance for those who need it until new federal resources are available.

The COVID-19 pandemic is being exacerbated by factors such as population density (3) and homelessness (2). Evidence clearly shows that when people are evicted they either create high-density housing situations by moving in with family and friends or live without housing, such as in shelters. The resulting predicted uptick in infections and death from COVID-19 related to evictions was confirmed in a study published recently in the *American Journal of Epidemiology* titled "Expiring Eviction Moratoriums and COVID-19 Incidence and Mortality." This article shows that across the 44 states where eviction moratoriums were allowed to lapse what followed was more than 400,000 unnecessary cases and more than 10,000 preventable deaths (1).

Let me be clear: I have been on code teams trying to save people dying from COVID-19. This is an awful way to die. One unnecessary case is too many. And one preventable death is too many. We urge you to pass this bill and save lives.

Thank you.

## References:

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