



OFFICIAL STATEMENT CHAIRS OF THE LEGISLATIVE HOUSING COMMITTEES

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Legislative Housing Chairs: Only a Special Session Can Protect 10,000+ Oregonians from Eviction

SALEM, OR – Today [Senator Kayse Jama](#) (D-Portland) and [Representative Julie Fahey](#) (D-Eugene), chairs of the legislative committees on housing, made the following statement highlighting the need for a December 13 special session to protect Oregonians from eviction:

“Over 10,000 Oregonians risk being evicted in the middle of winter during a pandemic because their safe harbor protections have expired. The Legislature passed these safe harbor protections nearly unanimously in June with Senate Bill 278 because we all agreed that no one should be evicted while rental assistance is on the way.

“Extending these protections should be a bipartisan solution to help Oregonians in need. This can only be done during a special session – the Emergency Board does **not** have the authority to extend these protections and keep people housed. We share the desire to provide more rental assistance that will protect tenants and support housing providers who have sacrificed so much over the last 18 months. That is why our proposed solution also includes \$190 million for additional rental assistance and eviction prevention services, and ensures the Landlord Guarantee Fund covers any unpaid rent owed to a landlord during the safe harbor.

“Peoples’ lives and well-being are on the lines. As public servants, we made a commitment to keep Oregonians housed during the pandemic and support housing providers. That is what we will show up to Salem to do on December 13.”

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