Dear Friends,

It's hard to keep up with the barrage of information that changes daily concerning COVID-19 here in Oregon. I'll provide a compilation of info I have gathered over the last few days from daily legislative phone calls, newsletters from colleagues (my own state senator is prolific!), and emails from friends who provide moments of levity. I'll also offer my own opinion about what I urge our state government to do next.

Virtual town hall next Saturday, April 4, 9-10:30am!

Co-hosted with Sen. Michael Dembrow and Rep. Barbara Smith Warner, we will discuss the latest news on COVID-19, take your suggestions, and attempt to answer your questions. Stay tuned for more details!

Federal Action

I am still profoundly frustrated with the President's reluctance to use the Defense Production Act to order more companies to manufacture more health care equipment.

However I am grateful that Oregon received a federal disaster declaration yesterday. This is the first step in unlocking all available federal resources. Retroactive to January 20, 2020, it activates FEMA's "Public Assistance" program to reimburse emergency actions taken by state, tribal and local government as well as certain nonprofit organizations. Our "individual assistance" including child care assistance, crisis counseling, legal services, and additional unemployment benefits is still pending. FEMA normally pays 75% of the cost, but we will request a waiver to get 100% recovered.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act which passed last Friday, will provide an estimated $2.2 trillion for immediate public health and economic relief. While there are parts I dislike (tax breaks and questionable oversight of the corporate package), I am grateful for the much-needed assistance. It is a good start, although more needs to be done (a theme you will hear from me again). Highlights include:

- $560 billion for individuals
$500 billion for big corporations  
$377 billion for small business assistance  
$339.8 billion to state and local governments  
$153.5 billion to public health agencies  
$30 billion Education Stabilization Fund  
$26 billion for safety net programs  
$25 billion for transit systems  
$1.4 billion for National Guard deployments, under the direction of the governors  
$400 million in coronavirus election security grants in 2020 elections  
Expands unemployment insurance from 3 to 4 months; adds part-time, self-employed and gig economy workers; adds temporary unemployment compensation of $600 per week on top of regular state and federal UI benefits  
Extends the Real ID deadline implementation by states from Oct. 1, 2020 to Oct. 1, 2021  
$1,200 direct payments* to many Americans (based on income) and $500 for each dependent child. Use this calculator to determine how much you may receive. Read Oregon Attorney General Rosenblum’s note on the *checks that should arrive in April:

1. The government will not contact you to ask you to pay anything in order to get this money. No fees. No charges. Nothing. Anyone who asks for fees up front is a scammer.
2. The government will not contact you to ask for your Social Security number, bank account, or credit card number to confirm your identity. Anyone who asks for this is a scammer.
3. If you spot this type of scam, please contact the Oregon Department of Justice by phone at 503-387-8442 or at www.oregonconsumer.gov.

Here are good links for overall details, housing details, and small business details. Oregon's state and local governments will get $1.635 billion; I am still trying to learn what the other specific pots of money Oregon will receive for housing, child care, etc. I am working with housing advocates to determine how best to allocate the estimated housing funds so we can allocate them as quickly as possible.

**State Legislature**

*I urge the Governor to call the Legislature into a Special Session* as soon as legislators agree on policies and provide resources to complement her executive orders and federal legislation. In preparation for a special session, the Joint Special Committee on Coronavirus Response (JSCVR) met four times in the past couple of weeks for many hours - on top of reading the hundreds of submitted testimony.
I revised my testimony, which focuses on the most vulnerable populations, after the federal CARES package passed. Click to read my latest housing and human service testimony in response to the JSCVR's original draft concept, as well as my summarized feedback in blue in the newest table of legislative concepts.

While the legislative drafts are a great start, I believe we should do more. We should pass policies that protect vulnerable populations without costing (and in fact may save) public funds. I am also urging the legislature to allocate funds for the gaps we already know, which I consider well above $75 million. While we must preserve enough reserve funds for the uncertain future, we have immediate needs that will grow bigger in the future if not managed well now. Because the regular 2020 Oregon session imploded, there are so many needed bills that didn't pass; some of that unspent money should be used where most needed.

I also urge us to allocate a sizable chunk to the Legislative Emergency "E-" Board to spend as needed over the next few months. It's hard to know exactly how far the federal funds from the first three bills and the anticipated fourth bill will be, and what Oregon's May quarterly forecast will be. In this emergency climate, the legislature needs to have maximum flexibility to meet needs, and it is hard for us to meet regularly!

**Governor Brown's order: "Stay Home, Save Lives"**

Oregon cases and deaths continue to rise; we stand at 690 cases and 18 deaths as of today. We are at the start of this marathon. It's too early to say how successful our "Stay at Home" measures are. However recent projections show that with high compliance on the "Stay Home" order, Oregon could avoid the dire consequences that New York and other regions are facing. But it will take a concerted community effort. Please share the Governor's new PR campaign, social media tools, and "hero" video clip!
Keeping up with the growing need for health care providers and equipment is also critical. If you are an Oregon licensed health care professional looking to volunteer, register for an account and join the State Managed Volunteer Pool and your local Medical Reserve Corps Unit through Serv-OR.

Oregon has received over 1 million donated PPE items from across the state. See a heartwarming story about Oregon mask crafters teaming up with medical providers. Scroll down to "Make a Donation" to volunteer, donate or sell PPE, and offer suggestions on the Office of Emergency Management's COVID-19 Response Page. It also has links to employer and employee resources, health insurance, childcare, homeless resources, mental health, utilities, trucking, courts, Department of Corrections, and a county by county monitoring of cases and deaths.

The Governor's new website with info in 7 languages has a comprehensive list of all Executive Orders, the most commonly needed links (i.e., on homelessness) for all topic areas across agencies, and a quick quiz to help businesses figure out how Executive Order 20-12 affects them: it's an art, not a science!

Enforcement of Executive Order workplace violations is through OSHA; please report if your employer doesn't provide a final paycheck or is not complying with social distancing. Enforcement of individual or community group violations is through local law enforcement.

**Oregon Health Authority in High Gear**

OHA's COVID-19 website has daily updates on cases and deaths; click on the "Situational Status" report to see the daily statewide breakdown of characteristics of those who have been diagnosed with COVID-19, availability of hospital beds and personal protective equipment (PPE), and the status of food, shelter, water, and other infrastructure needs. Check out the Governor's Joint Task Force for Health Care Systems Response to COVID-19 report.

OHA has applied for, and been granted, temporary "1135" waivers from the Center for Medicare/Medicaid Services for several federal requirements for the Oregon Health Plan (Medicaid). The waiver gives OHA added flexibility with respect to timelines, use of medical professionals with licenses and certifications from other states, ability to provide care in emergency sites, ability to pay for care for members who are stuck out of state, and streamlining of enrollment for those who've lost their employer-provided medical insurance.

**My District in High Gear Too**
In response to the hard hit that many Asian businesses suffered disproportionately as a result of the Coronavirus, APANO (Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon) helped create a grant program. Nearly $200,000 will be distributed to 24 businesses in the Jade District and 7 in Old Town Chinatown. (Businesses can apply to Prosper Portland for more funds through Wednesday at 11:59 p.m.) It is great to see community groups use various initiatives to reduce stigma and prejudice.

Inspiration!

As you can tell from the actions above, people have been working 16 hours days to put infrastructure in place. Again, I want to thank them, the health care providers and the first responders on the front lines, the essential workers who keep our essential services flowing, and all who are staying at home to prevent transmission.

Before I lose you with a long list of links, here are some funny and/or inspiring moments that have brought a smile to my face - as I hope they will to yours!

Portland: After watching inspiring scenes from cities around the world, sharing a nightly cheer to honor and thank health care workers who are on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic (watch Italy, Spain, Vancouver, and India - to name a few). Mayor Ted Wheeler asked for Portlanders to set their alarms for 7pm every night to make noise to cheer on our health care workers.

For more musical inspiration, see the beautiful rendition of "Love Sweet Love" composed and played by quarantined Berklee College of Music students.

Use your creative talents to let long-term care residents know we're
thinking about them during this time. Print out a #LoveFromADistance flyer, write a message, snap a photo, and post to the Long Term Care Ombudsman Facebook page.

Finally in the creative category, here is a calendar co-authored by my former college housemate, Bruce Handy, for the NY Times:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>&quot;Tuesday (or... Wednesday?)&quot;</th>
<th>Who Even Cares What Day It Is?</th>
<th>Light, Only Thursday</th>
<th>Did They Say Eight Weeks?</th>
<th>Shoot Me, Whatever</th>
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<td>10:00 PM Conference with My Mom: How do we have to have an agenda? Isn't it nice just to interact with five people?</td>
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<td>March 31st, take 20 minutes to imagine Florida aka is also sick of mediocre yogurt.</td>
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**Happy to Help Where We Can**

While I only have one legislative staff between sessions, Jason and I are happy to hear from you and help in whatever way we can. We hope you will join our April 4th virtual town hall and check out the links below. Most importantly, stay physically distant and socially close to your community!

Warmly,

**Alissa**
Helpful links

Census  (fill it out online!)

Local:
211Info: Call 211 from a cell, 503-222-5555 from a land line
Multnomah County Health Department
Joint Office of Homeless Services
Prosper Portland Small Business Relief Fund
COVID-19 Pooled Fund for nonprofits, led by Oregon Community Foundation
Portland Restaurant Take out and Delivery
Supporting Local Retail
Supporting Local Artists
Willamette Week list of closed local venues
Portland Monthly's day by day update

Suspension of disconnects for nonpayment:
Portland Water Bureau
Oregon Utilities  (Portland General Electric, Pacific Power, NW Natural)

Food Resources:
Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
Congressman Blumenauer list of food pantries, shelters, etc.
Oregon Food Bank, Access to food during COVID-19
Meals on Wheels
Portland Public Schools  food pantries and school meal pick-ups
David Douglas School District  food pantries and school meal pick-ups
SNAP  (apply if your income drops)

State:
Oregon Health Plan  (apply if your income drops)
OHA (Oregon Health Authority), general info
OHA temporary rules  for new situations, e.g., facilitating telemedicine
OHA sign up for coronavirus updates
Health Insurance Info
DCBS, info about insurance, mortgages, loans, and scams
Oregon's Occupational Safety and Health (OSHA)  for workplace complaints
Employment Department temporary rules  for Unemployment Benefits
(See more small business resources below)

Mental Health and Addictions:
OHA, Mental Health Crisis Hotlines
NAMI, mental health tips
Oregon Recovers, addiction recovery services
Oregon Youth Line
**CDC's Helping Children Cope**

**Education & Childcare:**
- Emergency Childcare
- Oregon Education Department
- Higher Education Coordinating Commission
- Common Sense Media, tips for educators
- Scholastic free access to books, lessons and more for grades K-9.

**Tips for Activities:**
- Recipes
- Gardening
- Multnomah County Library free books, movies, comics, TV and other media
- OPB/PBS adults and kids free documentaries and movies
- 12 Famous Museum Virtual Tours
- Common Sense Media, tips for families
- Oregon Zoo new videos every week
- Harry Potter themed Digital Escape Room for individuals and families
- Chrome Music Lab makes learning music accessible
- Parenting Time Issues: How "Stay Home" Order impacts custody exchange

**Pets:**
- Guidance for animal shelters and rescues
- FAQs about pet preparedness and helping animals in need
- Oregon Veterinary Medical Association info for veterinarians and pet owners
- Some local shelters collect pet food for people in need and are asking food pantries to carry pet food. Many Oregon animal shelters and rescues like Oregon Humane Society, remain open by-appointment for adoptions. Adoptions and fosters are needed as shelters and rescues lose staff, volunteers, resources and space, and experience a surge of animal intakes/surrenders.
- Oregon Hay Bank offers hay to horse owners in need.

**National and International:**
- CDC COVID-19 page
- World Health Organization

**Links with Language Translations:**
- Governor Brown's COVID-19 page, translated into 7 languages
- OHA, Individuals and Families, translated into 9 languages
- Oregon Judicial Branch, Domestic Violence translated into 5 languages
- CDC in Chinese, in Spanish

**Additional Resources for Small Businesses (courtesy of Rep. Tiffiny Mitchell):**
**Industry Specific Guidance:**
- Farm and Food: OSU [Small Farms & Food Producers Guidance](link)
- Restaurants: [Provisional Drive-Through Layout](link)
- Childcare: [Temporary Order - Provider Updates](link)
- Construction: [Construction Firms Guidance Webinar](link)
- Tourism: [Travel Oregon Industry Resources Module](link), & [ORLA Hospitality Action Center](link)
- Manufacturing: [OMEP Manufacturing Support Services](link)
- Import-Export: [Assistance for exporters and lenders](link)
- Shopify: [free digital gift card plans](link) for businesses

**Internet & Utilities:**
- [FCC Keep Americans Connected pledge](link) (Verizon, Comcast, AT&T, Sprint, Frontier, CenturyLink)
- [OpenSesame Free Courses on Remote Work](link)

**Commercial Tenant Rent Assistance:**
- [Guidance post](link) re: commercial leases from a CRE advisor

**Financial Resources, Taxes, Insurance and Legal**
- [Facebook Small Business Grant Program](link)
- [Oregon Division of Financial Regulation Guidance for Lenders and Loan Servicers](link)
- [Business Oregon COVID-19 Financial Resources for Business Page](link)
- USDA Business & Industry [Loan Guarantees](link)
- [CDFI Finder](link)
- IRS [Tax Relief Page](link) (taxes due July 15)
- Oregon DOR [Tax Relief guidance page](link) (taxes due July 15)
- [Tonkon Torp Guidance on Business Interruption Insurance](link)
- [Virus Impact on Business Contacts / Force Majeure](link)

**Banking Assistance:**
- [Capital One, Citi, Wells Fargo, Washington Federal, Bank of America, Oregon Credit Unions](link)

**Workforce Resources:**
- [Oregon Employment Dept: Layoffs, Closures, and Unemployment Insurance Benefits](link)
- Oregon Labor & Industries [Sick Time poster](link) and OR Employment [sick time fact sheet](link)
- Info on Oregon's [predictive scheduling law](link).
- Oregon Office of Workforce Investments [Guidance on Uses of Layoff Aversion Funding](link)
- Oregon Business & Industry [Employer Resources](link) page
- Partial unemployment: [Work Share program](link) provides schedule reduction assistance
- LifeLabs [aggregated template HR policies library](link)

**General Resilience:**
FEMA Business Continuity Planning Suite
Business Oregon COVID-19 Interim Guidance for Businesses Page
Oregon SBDC Centers still offering remote video/phone small business advising
PCC SBDC Business Adversity Response Plan
Small Business Administration Guidance for Businesses and Employers
SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans
Federal & State critical supply production opportunities for Oregon manufacturers
Potential Construction Contract opportunity for facility retrofits for medical capacity

Phew, that is an exhaustive list! Let me know if you have others you want me to add next time.