

JANEEN SOLLMAN
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 30



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

December 22, 2020

Timothy G. Sekerak
Chief Clerk of the House
Oregon House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Vote Explanation for House Bill 4401

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

The effects of this pandemic will last for years, if not decades. This bill attempts to mitigate some of the negative impacts of the economic crisis associated with Covid-19. The Governor asked us to Stay Home, Save Lives and declared a State of Emergency on March 8, 2020. Most Oregonians complied and I've heard many stories of the resulting financial hardship at home in House District 30. I've heard from tenants who are prioritizing rent over other basic needs and those who cannot pay their rent at all. I've heard from small landlords who rely on their rental properties for their monthly and retirement income. The eviction moratorium has improved public safety and kept many Oregonians in their homes but has created a backlog of past due rent that continues to grow. This bill creates a practical and balanced way to address this problem.

With the number of Covid-19 cases rising, hospital capacity falling and the death rate in Oregon at an all-time high, we need to continue to ask landlords to help shoulder the burden of public health. We need to extend the moratorium on evictions to save lives. With a sense of urgency, we also need to provide some relief to those landlords. 80% of what's owed is not all of what's owed, and I hope that the federal government will provide more resources to assist residential housing providers.

I voted to address the urgent concerns I heard from within my district. I voted to extend the moratorium, keep Oregonians in their homes and provide a path for landlords to be able to address the pressing concerns of a nine-month backlog of overdue rent and keep them, and renters, from falling further behind.

Sincerely,

Representative Janeen Sollman

