

December 2, 2020

Word Count: 216

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QuickPoint! – Government Should Pay the Price for Locking Down Our Economy

By Vlad Yurlov

Oregon's government is finally feeling the pain of lockdowns. Last April, an executive order banned the eviction of tenants based on non-payment until June 30, 2020. This action has been extended twice and currently ends January 1st.

Now that the year is coming to a close, the Legislature is deciding whether to extend the moratorium for another six months or let it sunset. But this time, constituents have guided the current proposals to send \$100 million from the state's general fund to renters and property owners to relieve back rent.

Kate Brown initiated the moratorium because many people have lost jobs and are likely to miss rent. But it is largely due to lockdown mandates that have directly limited the ability of people to earn a living.

But it's not only property owners that deserve compensation for the damages associated with government mandates. Lockdowns have restricted restaurants, cinemas, and offices all over Oregon from earning a living. To align the interests of the public and private sector, everyone damaged by government mandated lockdowns strategies should receive reimbursement for their losses. The politicians who say, "We're all in this together" should put their money where their mouths are and face the financial consequences of their decisions.

Vlad Yurlov is a Policy Analyst at Cascade Policy Institute, Oregon's free market public policy research organization.