



House Amendment 1 – House Bill 5574 (Ramirez-Guzzardi) SUPPORT

United Working Families and our 100,000 members across the state of Illinois **SUPPORT** H.B. 5574 House Amendment No. 1 (Rep. Ramirez-Rep. Guzzardi), which creates the “COVID-19 Emergency and Economic Recovery Renter and Homeowner Protection Act.” Our organizations are calling on the state legislature to pass this legislation as it is the only comprehensive plan to support working families struggling under the brunt of the economic crisis kicked off by the global COVID-19 pandemic.

[Illinois' unemployment claims](#) climbed to over one million last week, but those forcibly unemployed workers are still shouldering rent and mortgage payments. Leaders of mutual aid efforts say local support for renters and mortgagors are exhausted, as more and more workers struggle to support their own households. The United Working Families mutual aid effort in Chicago received over \$45,000 dollars in just a couple of days, but these funds are being depleted while thousands of people cite housing payments as their number one concern because of government inaction.

If the legislature does not move forward with this bill, residents, especially those in low-income, Black and Latinx communities will be victims of a housing crisis greater than that of 2008. In a time where access to housing is a form of healthcare and a matter of public safety, we must make sure everyone has adequate shelter. This bill will bring the housing relief Illinoisans need through **financial relief for residential renters, homeowners, and small Landlords; homeowner protections; renter protections and protections against discrimination.**

In less than two weeks another rent payment or mortgage payment will be due for millions of people across the state. Housing pledges aren't enough for struggling residents. Non-binding payments to landlords aren't enough for struggling residents. **Renters and homeowners**

across the state of Illinois need concrete legislative action now that directly helps those who need the most support in this global pandemic. No family should have to decide between paying rent and putting food on the table. We ask you to make the right decision and vote in support of H.B. 5574 House Amendment No. 1.

Sincerely,
United Working Families

Please feel free to contact Alexis Florence of United Working Families and the Right to Recovery coalition (alexis@unitedworkingfamilies.org) if there are any questions, or you would like to discuss this issue.

UWF AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

22nd Ward Independent Political Organization

25th Ward Independent Political Organization

33rd Ward Working Families

Action Now

Chicago Teachers Union

Cook County Colleges Teachers Union Local 1600

Grassroots Illinois Action

Illinois Nurses Association

National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 11

SEIU Healthcare

United Electrical Workers Western Region

United Neighbors of the 35th Ward

Warehouse Workers Organizing Committee

Workers United CMRJB