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May 21, 2020

Senate President Don Harmon  
Senate Minority Leader Bill Brady  
House Speaker Michael Madigan  
House Minority Leader Jim Durkin  
Members of the General Assembly

From: Ernest Lukasik, Housing Organizer, Northwest Side Housing Center  
Dave Potete, Chairman, Homeowners United, NWSHC  
James Rudyk, Executive Director, Northwest Side Housing Center  
Julio Rodriguez, Director of Organizing, Northwest Side Housing Center

Re: HB 5574 Representative Delia C. Ramirez

Dear Illinois lawmakers:

As the General Assembly convenes this week in the midst of this health and economic crisis that has disrupted the daily lives of all Illinoisans, it is critical that our state government take every opportunity during and after the coronavirus pandemic to ensure housing stability. Unemployment claims in Illinois are exceeding levels of the 2008 Great Recession. Families are worried they will not be able to afford their rent, their mortgage, or utilities.

Homeowners United and NWSHC urge you to pass HB 5574. This Bill will provide temporary relief and protection to renters, homeowners, and persons in need of housing during and in the aftermath of the pandemic. Individuals, families, and small businesses are vulnerable to evictions and foreclosures. When the Governor's state of emergency declaration expires, unpaid rental debt, late fees, and court costs that have accrued during this time against residential and small business commercial tenants will be due. In this time of crisis and uncertainty NO ONE should fear Losing their Home.

HB 5574 addresses the needs and concerns of your constituents and offers the relief they need now. We ask that partisan politics take a back seat in this session. This is not about politics this is about preserving housing stability among the working class, low income and marginalized renters during this pandemic.

We hope the assembly will not be insensitive to the needs of their constituents. HB 5574 is ready to give the necessary relief now and fill in the gaps in service that contribute to disparities.

Sincerely,

Ernest Lukasik

Dave Potete

James Rudyk

Julio Rodriguez

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Northwest Side Housing Center is a HUD-Certified non-profit Agency that services and resources to the Belmont Cragin area of Chicago as well as the City of Chicago and surrounding areas.

Homeowners United of Northwest Side Housing Center are homeowners who take up issues that homeowners and the community are facing and advocate for a justified solution.