

WITNESS SLIP IN SUPPORT OF HB5574

As a Chicago renter, voter, and taxpayer I urge the General Assembly to pass HB5574 HA1 to provide urgently-needed relief for renters and homeowners.

As someone who is working-full time but is rent-burdened, spending more than 35 percent of my income on rent; as a member of a tenants' union and as someone currently on rent strike against my wealthy corporate landlord; as someone who knows that my neighbors are still being evicted despite supposed protections against this; as a democratic socialist who believes housing is for people and not for profit; as someone horrified by the toll of the coronavirus pandemic on low-income, housing-insecure communities; I know this bill does not go far enough but we must take action now. I support HB5574 HA1, and I support HB255 to lift the undemocratic ban on rent control, and ultimately I support full rent and mortgage cancellation for all for the duration of the emergency order and at least three months following.

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