

May 21, 2020

TO: Executive Committee of the Illinois State Legislature

RE: Emergency Renter and Homeowner Protection Act, HB5574

We are in full support of the Emergency Renter and Homeowner Protection Act, HB5574 because it brings real relief to the hundreds of thousands who are suffering income insecurity during this crisis. No one should lose their home due to a pandemic.

Some landlords are offering relief to renters but most continue to demand rent, or at best, offer a payment plan. This is insufficient, as those who have lost income are already dipping into their savings and will not be able to pay back past rent after months without income. Our landlord has said he will not offer relief unless legislation is enacted giving renters and landlords relief, and this bill does exactly that.

We have formed the Harbor Pointe Tenants council to communicate collectively to negotiate with our landlord but he continues to stay silent. Some of us did not qualify for any government relief including the stimulus check, state unemployment benefits, or even the local housing assistance grant in Chicago. Time is running out and rent is due again in 10 days, and for the third time in a row, we don't have it.

It's time for Illinois to take care of its millions of renters who continue to be watch their savings drain out.

Signed,
Harbor Pointe Tenants Council
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