

Name: Melissa Castro

Representing: Melissa Castro

Supporting: HB-5574 HA 1 Emergency Rental and Homeowner Protection Act

Testimony:

I am in 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.

No one should have to choose between food, between safety, and between rent. Since the pandemic started, I have been terrified for my family and for myself. We have both lost our income and have pleaded with our landlord to work with us and have only been met with callousness. He has blatantly threatened my future in securing safe housing and has threatened to report me to a collection agency and charge me late fees. He has refused to work with us; and I fear not only being homeless by June 1 but having an eviction on my record for a global health crisis that was not my fault.