

**Name:** Jessica Ellingsen

**Representing:** Harbor Pointe Tenants Council: BRADLEY BURTON, JESSICA ELLINGSEN, GRACE HAHN, ASHLEY LIKAR, ANNA LIPSCOMB, SOOZ MAIN, ALEXANDER MUNTGES, JOSH NIEDERWERFER, JULIAN WADDELL, LAUREN WYPER, STEPHANIE YOUNG

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

**Testimony:**

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. It's time for Illinois to take care of its millions of renters that have been watching their savings drain out.