



# Metropolitan Planning Council

**DATE:** May 21, 2020

**SUBJECT:** SUPPORT for HB 5574, HA1, COVID-19 Emergency and Economic Recovery Renter and Homeowners Protection Act

Honorable Members of the House Executive Committee:

Founded in 1934, the Metropolitan Planning Council is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to shaping a more equitable, sustainable and prosperous greater Chicago region.

We strongly support the **COVID19 Emergency and Economic Recovery Renter and Homeowner Protection Act** (HB 5574 HA 1), which will take comprehensive action to promote housing stability in a time when it is needed most. Our state and nation are facing an unprecedented public health and economic crisis, with record breaking unemployment straining countless household budgets – many of whom were already struggling to keep up with rising housing costs before losing their jobs.

In moments like these, we need to take bold action to stabilize renters, homeowners, and small landlords alike. HB5574 HA 1 is a bold step to keep these Illinois households and others housed.

We especially commend the legislation's inclusions around:

- Pairing targeted rental and mortgage forgiveness with relief for small landlords
- Extending the current eviction moratorium and expanding to include foreclosures
- Expanding renter protections, including just cause eviction controls
- Adding needed protected classes to anti-discrimination law

Together, these components constitute meaningful action to keep Illinois families housed and prevent mass evictions, foreclosures, and new instances of homelessness.

We urge the House Executive Committee to pass HB 5574, HA1. Thank you for this opportunity.

Sincerely,  
Juan Sebastian Arias  
Manager, Housing & Community Development

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