

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 5574 HA 1**

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My name is Julie Brennan and I am an attorney with the Legal Council for Health Justice. Our organization serves individuals and families facing barriers due to chronic, disabling, and stigmatizing health and social conditions. All of our work combines direct representation, education, and advocacy across the city, state, and nation.

We strongly support the passage of HB 5574 HA 1, as it is a vital step in preventing an explosion of housing instability and homelessness in Illinois in the months ahead. It is estimated that in April, thirty percent of Americans were unable to pay rent due to the pandemic and growing economic crisis. Without HB 5574 HA 1, the moratorium on evictions will expire on May 30, 2020, and potentially hundreds of thousands of households in Illinois will face immediate threat of eviction and homelessness.

Allowing this crisis to unfold will cost the state dramatically more than the investment it could make here with temporary measures and residential housing funding. We know that social determinants of health (social, behavioral, and environmental influences) play a greater role in health than clinical interventions and supporting social determinants, including housing, will improve overall health and reduce state health care costs. Providing housing support for low-income, high-need individuals results in net healthcare cost savings. See, [https://www.bluecrossmafoundation.org/sites/default/files/download/publication/Social\\_Equity\\_Report\\_Final.pdf](https://www.bluecrossmafoundation.org/sites/default/files/download/publication/Social_Equity_Report_Final.pdf). Increased homelessness will also increase costs to state funded support systems such as homeless prevention agencies, and Illinois Department of Human Services programs. Averting this crisis makes good ethical and good fiscal sense.

We strongly urge legislators to take action now to stabilize housing for Illinoisans. A failure to act will only increase homelessness, health costs, and disparities within our state.