

House Amendment 1 – House Bill 5574 (Ramirez-Guzzardi) SUPPORT



The [Right to Recovery Coalition](#), a growing group of 50 community-based organizations from across Illinois, **SUPPORTS** H.B. 5574 House Amendment No. 1 (Rep. Ramirez-Rep. Guzzardi), which creates the “COVID-19 Emergency and Economic Recovery Renter and Homeowner Protection Act.” Our organizations are calling on the state legislature to pass this legislation as it is the only comprehensive plan to support working families struggling under the brunt of the economic crisis kicked off by the global COVID-19 pandemic.

[Illinois’ unemployment claims](#) climbed to over one million last week, but those forcibly unemployed workers are still shouldering rent and mortgage payments. Leaders of mutual aid efforts say local support for renters and mortgagors are exhausted, as more and more workers struggle to support their own households. The United Working Families mutual aid effort in Chicago only received over \$45,000 dollars in just a couple of days, but these funds are being depleted while thousands of people cite housing payments as their number one concern because of government inaction.

If the legislature does not move forward with this bill residents, especially those in low-income, Black and Latinx communities will be victims of a housing crisis greater than that of 2008. In a time where access to housing is a form of healthcare and a matter of public safety, we must make sure everyone has adequate shelter. This bill will bring the housing relief Illinoisans need through **financial relief for residential renters, homeowners, and small Landlords; homeowner protections; renter protections and protections against discrimination.**

In less than two weeks another rent payment or mortgage payment will be due for millions of people across the state. Housing pledges aren’t enough for struggling residents. Non-binding payments to landlords aren’t enough for struggling residents. **Renters and homeowners across the state of Illinois need concrete legislative action now that directly helps those who need the most support in this global pandemic.** No family should have to decide between paying rent and putting food on the table. We ask you to make the right decision and vote in support of H.B. 5574 House Amendment No. 1.

Sincerely,

Right to Recovery Coalition: Action Now Institute, Albany Park Defense Network, Alliance for Community Services, Autonomous Tenants Union, Black Lives Matter Chicago, Brighton Park Neighborhood Council, Caucus of Rank and File Educators (CORE), Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, Chicago Community Bond Fund, Chicago Democratic Socialists of America, Chicago Food Policy Action Policy, Chicago Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights, Chicago & Midwest

Regional Joint Board, Workers United, Chicago Teachers Union, Chicago Votes, Cook County College Teachers Union, Gig Workers Matter, Good Kids Mad City, Grassroots Collaborative, Illinois Nurses Association, Jane Addams Senior Caucus, Jewish Council on Urban Affairs, Kenwood Oakland Community Organization (KOCO), Lift the Ban, Little Village Environmental Justice Organization, National Nurses United, Northside Action for Justice, ONE Northside, Organized Communities Against Deportation, Parents 4 Teachers, Physicians for A National Health Program, Raise Your Hand for Illinois Public Education, Rizoma Collective, SEIU Healthcare, Southeast Environmental Task Force / Coalition to Ban Petcoke, Southside Together Organizing for Power, Southsiders Organized in Unity & Liberation (SOUL), Sunrise Movement Chicago, The People's Lobby, United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers of America, Western Region, United Neighbors of the 35th Ward, United Working Families, United Working Families of the 50th Ward, 1st Ward United, 11th Ward IPO, 12th Ward IPO, 22nd Ward IPO, 25th Ward IPO and 33rd Ward Working Families

Please feel free to contact Alexis Florence of United Working Families and the Right to Recovery coalition (alexis@unitedworkingfamilies.org) if there are any questions, or you would like to discuss this issue.