



May 21, 2020

House Executive Committee  
via email at [HouseExecutive@ilga.gov](mailto:HouseExecutive@ilga.gov)

Re: Support HB 5574, HA 1 (Rep. Ramirez, Sen. Peters)

Dear Executive Committee members:

My name is Megan Rosenfeld, and I am the policy director for the Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation, a local and statewide nonprofit that seeks to end sexual harm in all of its forms. At CAASE, we offer legal services to survivors in Cook County and educate young people to prevent future sexual harm. Last year, we helped more than 200 individual clients of ours seek justice after their experiences of sexual assault, or as survivors of sex trafficking and the commercial sex industry. In our work, we see how affordable housing and income inequity directly impacts the people we serve - even before the dreadful impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are writing in support of the COVID-19 and Economic Emergency Renter and Homeowner Protection Act (HB 5574 House Amendment 1) to bring much needed stability for vulnerable people and families across the state.

In our work, we recognize that homelessness is a common vulnerability that contributes to whether a person sells sex to get money for basic needs, can lead to a person becoming trafficked, and ultimately can lead to that person being incarcerated. During this pandemic, we are seeing [reports](#) of tenants being harassed by landlords to exchange sex to cover their rent. If we do nothing, this harassment and harm towards people and families will continue. Instead, we should be providing relief and protections to renters, homeowners, and persons in need of housing during and in the aftermath of the pandemic. To better support all people in Illinois during this crisis, including the people we serve, we ask lawmakers to support the COVID-19 and Economic Emergency Renter and Homeowner Protection Act.

Sincerely,

Megan Rosenfeld  
Policy Director  
Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation  
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