



May 21, 2020

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

Dear Honorable Members of the House Executive Committee:

Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights is a nonprofit, non-partisan group of civil rights attorneys and advocates fighting to secure racial equity and economic opportunity for all since 1969. We **strongly support HB 5574 HA1, the COVID-19 Emergency and Economic Recovery Renter and Homeowners Protection Act**, which will take timely and comprehensive measures to address the housing dimensions of the crisis that we find ourselves in.

The current pandemic has had drastic impacts on the health and economic well-being of communities throughout Illinois, with particularly acute impacts on communities of color and low-income communities. Rampant unemployment has put thousands of families and small businesses at risk of eviction and foreclosure. Without bold action, the expiration of the Governor's state of emergency will be devastating as unpaid rent, late fees, and court costs will come due for families and businesses that simply cannot afford to pay.

HB 5574, HA1 will provide significant relief in the face of this crisis. It will provide much needed rental and mortgage forgiveness while also helping small landlords that are also struggling to pay their bills. It will provide protections against what could be a rash of evictions and foreclosures. By promoting housing stability, this legislation will not only provide economic relief to Illinoisans, it will also promote our collective health and recovery by allowing residents to safely shelter in place.

We strongly urge the Housing Executive Committee to pass HB 5574, HA 1. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Gavin Kearney  
Senior Counsel, Equitable Community Development and Housing