



*Putting the 'Human' into Public Services.*

May 20,2020

TO: IL House Executive Committee and members of IL House of Representatives

RE: HB5574-HA1 Proponent

FROM: Francis X. Tobin, Alliance Coordinator

The labor-community Alliance for Community Services supports HB5574-HA1 – the COVID 19 9 Emergency and Economic Recovery Renter and Homeowners Protection Act

As a coalition of people with disabilities, seniors, low income families and front-line service workers, Alliance members see and experience both the health-related and the economic harms of the COVID crisis.

Tens of thousands of people – especially people of color and those already in precarious financial straits – have lost jobs, lost ability to pay rent and support themselves and their families.

This proposal and other emergency measures are vital to protecting the health and safety, survival and recovery of the people of Illinois. Two key points to consider:

- 1) The economic crisis is not color-blind.
- 2) We may be in the same storm but we are not in the same boat.

Many that have already been getting the most benefit from our economy are not suffering. Yet many families lack any wealth/assets to fall back on in a natural disaster – black and brown families especially.

- Between March 18 and April 10, 2020, over 22 million people lost their jobs as the unemployment rate surged toward 15 percent. **Over the same three weeks, U.S. billionaire wealth increased by \$282 billion, an almost 10 percent gain.**

