

Name: Elena Gormley

Representing: I am an MSW Candidate at the University of Illinois Chicago Jane Addams College of Social Work.

Supporting: HB-5574 HA 1 Emergency Rental and Homeowner Protection Act

Testimony:

I am in support of the Emergency Renter and Homeowner Protection Act, HB 5574. I am a Rogers Park resident and a social work student at the UIC Jane Addams College of Social Work. Many Chicago residents were already rent-burdened and housing insecure before COVID-19, and in my work as a social worker and a volunteer with my neighborhood's community response team, I have had to listen to residents express extreme fear and anxiety about being unable to pay rent during this crisis. This bill's rent freeze and extension on the eviction moratorium, and forbearance options for mortgage holders will ensure that families will be able to remain housed and that homeowners and landlords will receive greater flexibility in being able to delay mortgage payments. Housing is a human right and the State Legislature must recognize that--especially now.