

Name: Mitchell Rigg

Representing: Mitchell Rigg

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

Testimony:

I am in support of the Emergency Renter and Homeowner Protection Act, HB5574.

For some insight into my income insecurity and subsequent fear of losing my apartment, I wanted to share the following short testimony.

I have not received a paycheck in months. My financial struggles intensified last year, after my job was eliminated. Since then, I have been living paycheck-to-paycheck, off of minimal unemployment income. In November, I had no choice but to file for bankruptcy, at least allowing for me to just barely pay rent, without continuing to skip payments of inescapably high-interest personal loans and credit cards (public school student loans remain).

I have been aggressively job searching, with that coming to a heightened frustration in March, with a potential employer rescinding an offer. I know I am legally entitled to continue to receive unemployment, as a result of the CARES Act, yet I have not received those funds. In fact, I have received two notices of overpayment, which is an incredibly distressing error. I constantly call and email IDES, with no success of engagement.

At this point, I have not paid rent in two months and have no possible way to do so come June. Even if my unemployment income was to come through, that is a short-term solution, with still no way to pay for medical, etc. expenses. I have been very open with my property management team, The Bozzuto Group, who have done nothing to assist me, frequently inquiring about my rent via email, phone, and in-person and have made it abundantly clear they will be filing for my eviction, the moment the courts reopen, despite my personal struggle during a pandemic and perfect payment history with them (and my entire rental existence).

Your rental relief efforts would be beyond appreciated - they would be lifesaving. Stay safe.