

**Name:** Paul Perez

**Representing:** DSA

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

**Testimony:**

My wife is an essential grocery worker, she suffers PTSD from abuse as a child. In a week she will head back to work after delivering our baby. She struggles with social anxiety. Covid has put her in high alert with trying to keep our children safe. My fear is she will be triggered once she gets back to work causing her to take sick leave. Leave us unable to pay rent. Unfortunately, like many Americans we struggle with both our incomes to pay rent for two bedrooms, which is 1300 a month. Rent takes up half if not more of our income. Not to mention utilities bills, student loans, and medical bills. We live pay check to pay check in this crippling economy.

To my understanding, the state and local businesses survive on all consumers of a society to spend money to keep it going, not just a wealthy few, who spend their wealth in their own properties, neighborhoods, while at the same time consolidating wealthy, businesses, and properties.

Working families need much needed assistance that has gone ignored. Rent Freeze will help not only monetary, but mental health of those who face unemployment during this pandemic and foreseeable recession.