

Name: Waiken Wong

Representing: self

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 because it brings real relief to the hundreds of thousands who are suffering income insecurity during this crisis. No one should lose their home due to a pandemic.

Every day we see examples of who is deemed essential in keeping our daily lives and vital services going. It is not the head of a bank, the corporate executive, or the hedge fund manager. It is the hourly wage earner, the one who does not have the luxuries of working from home or a financial cushion during trying times. These friends and neighbors cannot afford to have the ability to stay in their homes threatened. To enforce business as usual instead of compassionate and creative ways of alleviating some of these burdens will only cause problems further downstream, not just for the displaced, but our society at large. Our economy and the "normal" life we hope to enjoy again are built directly upon the foundation provided and sustained by these essential workers. To weaken their lives and livelihoods is to weaken the foundation on which we all stand.