

**Name:** Fanny Y. Lopez Benitez

**Representing:** Latino Policy Forum

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

**Testimony:**

The Latino Policy Forum supports the COVID-19 And Economic Recovery Emergency Renter and Homeowner Protection Act because we work with community partners to ensure all members of the Latino community, regardless of income, have access to safe, quality, affordable housing options, especially during this pandemic. Many low-income Latinx and immigrant families are having trouble making rent and mortgage payments due to reduce work hours and employment loss. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the unemployment rate for Latinos at the national level rose to 18.9 percent. The rate is higher than any other racial or ethnic group. Undocumented immigrants are not eligible for unemployment benefits and mixed-status families did not qualify to receive federal stimulus checks. Without economic assistance to help them pay for rent, mortgage and utilities during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, these individuals and families are at risk of experiencing home instability and even homelessness.