



Thursday May 21, 2020

Members of the General Assembly,

Center for Changing Lives (CCL) is a 30-year-old organization that helps individuals and families experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. Since its inception it has served over 25,000 individuals. CCL offers one stop crisis intervention and holistic support programs through its operations as a Financial Opportunity Center that focuses on employment coaching, training and placement, financial capability coaching and credit building as well as housing counseling.

Many of the COVID 19 hardest hit communities are being left of meaningful relief – particularly the Latino community in Illinois. A national poll released yesterday by SOMOS, UnidosUS and MoveOn fund reveal that 40% of Latino households in Illinois are still having difficulty in making a rent or mortgage payment because of the corona virus outbreak. Furthermore, 77% of Latinos polled in Illinois are concerned that they will not be able to keep up with basic expenses like rent/mortgage, utilities, or food due to layoffs or pay cuts related to the coronavirus outbreak.

As we know, this economic crisis is not limited to the Latinx or African Americans however, these are the communities that have been hid the hardest and continue to be most affected. Since mid-March 2020 we have seen a 700% increase in the request for services.

We support HB5574 HA1 – as housing is a universal basic right and believe this is one step in providing relief for all Illinoisans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Juliana Gonzalez-Crussi'.

Juliana Gonzalez-Crussi
Executive Director