

PETITION TO THE GOVERNOR TO EXTEND THE EVICTION MORATORIUM AND PROVIDE RENT RELIEF

We call on the Governor to extend Connecticut's eviction moratorium through the end of the emergency public health declaration and simultaneously fund a broad-based rent relief program to protect renters and landlords from economic ruin due to the pandemic. It is essential that the state not allow the eviction moratorium to expire before a program is fully operational and providing assistance to stabilize the rental market.

Connecticut currently has a moratorium on evictions until July 1. But the public health crisis and the related economic crisis will not magically end on July 1 or even by the end of the summer. In the last two months, more people applied for unemployment compensation in Connecticut than in the last four years combined. The federal programs that gave low wage workers temporary respite—the one-time stimulus payment and the enhanced unemployment benefits—will end soon. Unless the state allocates existing federal relief money to create a broad program to help tenants who are not able to pay rent, there will be a flood of evictions when the moratorium is lifted with cascading consequences for families, communities, landlords, and the economy.

Black and Latinx communities are bearing the brunt of the economic and health impacts of coronavirus, and they are more likely to be renters. For this reason, it is critical not only to create an adequately funded rent relief program but also one in which the rules, application process, outreach, and spending focus on the families which are hardest hit by the pandemic. The program must be available to all landlords and tenants regardless of their immigration status.

The federal government has given Connecticut almost \$1.4 billion in Coronavirus Relief Funds through the CARES Act. The state is planning to use only \$10 million for rental assistance, but this is not nearly enough to help affected families. By allocating even 10% of that money to rent relief, the Governor can stabilize tenants and landlords and avoid the devastation that could come to neighborhoods if the rental market collapsed from mass evictions and vacancies.

Eviction is not just a symptom of poverty; it causes poverty. An eviction record impedes a renter's ability to secure safe, decent housing, without which children are put at risk for lead poisoning, asthma, and other health issues. Eviction has serious societal costs too. Evictions result in academic loss to children whose educations are disrupted by missing or switching schools. Evictions negatively affect mental health, wellness, and decision-making. Destabilization of housing strains city services and can lead to increased use of emergency rooms, which is particularly dangerous in a pandemic.

A new flood of families without a place to live will be a giant step backwards in our fight to control the pandemic. We should not create a new public health crisis. The Governor should act now to protect landlords and tenants – families with children, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, and everyone at risk of eviction – by extending the eviction moratorium and providing sufficient rent relief necessary to keep our communities safe.

Signed,

<p>A Place to Nourish Your Health (APNH), New Haven Advancing CT Together (ACT), Hartford All Our Kin, Stamford American Planning Association- CT Chapter, Cheshire Amplify, Hartford APT Vocational Services/APT Foundation, New Haven Beth-El Center, Inc., Milford BHcare, Branford Building ONE COMMUNITY, Stamford CareSource Psychotherapy, Milford Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Hartford, Hartford Catholic Charities of Fairfield County, Bridgeport Center for Children's Advocacy, Inc., Hartford Center for Human Development, Waterbury Center for Leadership and Justice, Hartford Chester Department of Human Services, Chester Child & Family Agency of Southeastern CT, New London Children in Placement, New Haven Christ Episcopal Church, Norwich Chrysalis Domestic Violence Services, Meriden Coalition on Housing & Homelessness, Middletown Coastal CT RESULTS, Stamford Columbus House Inc., New Haven Community Collaborative, Meriden Community Health Resources, Windsor Connecticut Association for Community Action, Middletown Connecticut Alliance for Retired Americans, West Hartford Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence, East Hartford Connecticut Association for Community Action, Inc., Middletown Connecticut Coalition on Aging, New Haven Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness, Hartford Connecticut Community Nonprofit Alliance, Hartford/Statewide Connecticut Cross Disability Lifespan Alliance, West Hartford Connecticut Fair Housing Center, Hartford Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance, Bridgeport Connecticut Legal Rights Project, Inc., Middletown Connecticut Legal Services, Middletown Connecticut Local Administrators of Social Services, Inc. (C.L.A.S.S.), Ellington Connecticut Mutual Aid, Waterbury Connecticut Nurses' Association, Old Greenwich Connecticut Resource Conservation & Development Area, Inc., Pomfret Center Connecticut State Independent Living Council, Fairfield</p>	<p>Connecticut Undoing Racism Community Steering Committee, Stamford Connecticut Veterans Legal Center, West Haven Connecticut Voices for Children, New Haven Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF), Hartford Disabilities Network of Eastern CT, Inc., Norwich Disability Rights Connecticut, Hartford Domuskids, Stamford Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen, Inc. (DESK), New Haven East Windsor Department of Social Services, East Windsor Eastern Connecticut Assistive Technology Center, Willimantic End Hunger Connecticut!, Hartford EquityCT, New Haven Every Woman Connecticut, Hamden Everyday Democracy- Criminal Justice, Stamford Fair Haven Community Health Center, New Haven Fairfield County Center for Housing Opportunity, Bridgeport Fairfield Human and Social Services, Fairfield Family Centers, Stamford/Greenwich Ficklin Media Group, New Haven Future 5, Stamford Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA), Hartford Greater Hartford Legal Aid, Hartford Hartford Department of Youth Services, Hartford Hartford Healthcare, Hartford Hartford Land Bank, Hartford Haven's Harvest, New Haven Health Equity Solutions, Hartford Hispanic Alliance of Southeastern Connecticut, New London Homes with Hope, Westport Human Resources Agency of New Britain, Inc., New Britain Independence Northwest, Inc., Naugatuck Inspirica, Inc., Stamford Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services (IRIS), New Haven Interfaith Council of Southwestern Connecticut, Stamford James H Napier Foundation, Meriden Josiah Believes Unlimited, Glastonbury Keep the Promise Coalition, West Hartford Kids In Crisis, Cos Cob Liberation Programs, Inc., Norwalk, Bridgeport and Stamford Liberty Community Services, Inc., New Haven Life in My Days, Inc., Waterbury Loaves and Fishes, New Haven Local Initiatives Support Corporation-CT (LISC), Hartford Madison Senior Services, Madison Mental Health Connecticut, West Hartford</p>
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<p> Mercy Housing & Shelter/My Sisters' Place, Hartford Mercy Learning Center of Bridgeport, Inc., Bridgeport Meriden-Middlesex County-Wallingford Coordinated Access Network (MMW CAN), Meriden Middlesex United Way, Middletown Ministerial Health Fellowship, Middletown National Association of Social Workers Connecticut Chapter, Rocky Hill Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven, New Haven Neighborhood Housing Services of Waterbury, Waterbury New Haven Legal Assistance Association, Inc., New Haven New Haven Pride Center, New Haven New Horizons, Middletown New Opportunities Inc., Waterbury New Reach, New Haven Newhallville Community Action Network (NCAN), New Haven North Central Area Agency on Aging, Hartford Norwalk Mutual Aid Inc., Norwalk Office of the Child Advocate, Hartford OutCT, New London Parish of St Paul's Church, Norwalk Partnership for Strong Communities, Hartford Radical Alternatives for Cross-Cultural Education (RACCE), Waterbury Ridgefield Affordable Housing Committee, Ridgefield Safe Futures, Inc., New London Safe Haven of Greater Waterbury, Waterbury SEET Consultants LLC, New Britain Senior Resources - Agency on Aging, Norwich Sheldon Oak Central, Inc., Hartford Sherman Social Services, Sherman Social Justice Anti Oppression Committee of Unitarian Universalist Society East, Manchester South Windsor Department of Human Services, South Windsor Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ, Glastonbury St. Francis House, New London St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Mystic Stonington Housing Authority, Stonington Sunrise Cafe New Haven Inc., New Haven Supportive Housing Works, Bridgeport TEAM Inc., Derby Thames Valley Council for Community Action (TVCCA), Bozrah </p>	<p> The Center: A Drop-In Community Learning and Resource Center, Inc., New London The Diaper Bank of Connecticut, North Haven The Narrative Project, New Haven The Race Equity Institute, Stamford, CT The Village for Families & Children, Inc. , Hartford Town of East Windsor, Broad Brook Triangle Community Center, Norwalk Troup School Family Resource Center, New Haven Unitarian Universalist Society: East - Social Justice Anti- Oppression Committee, Manchester United Way of Milford, Milford United Way of Western Connecticut, Danbury Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut, Meriden Urban League of Greater Hartford, Hartford Westbrook Department of Social Services, Westbrook Western CT Area Agency on Aging, Inc., Waterbury Westport Department of Human Services, Westport Wilton Upstanders, Wilton Windham Area Interfaith Ministry, Willimantic Windham Region No Freeze Project, Inc., Willimantic Witnesses to Hunger New Haven, New Haven Youth Action Hub, Hartford Youth Continuum, New Haven </p>
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