

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1304

July 29, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-220, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-205, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

To Senate Majority Leader McConnell, House Speaker Pelosi, Senate Minority Leader Schumer, and House Minority Leader McCarthy:

The economic crisis caused by COVID-19 is deepening and communities across the country face an avalanche of evictions as tenant protections expire and unpaid rent is due. As Congress negotiates the next stimulus package, we urge leadership to include \$100 billion for emergency rental assistance funds to allow tenants to stay in their homes. This vital provision passed the House twice in the HEROES Act and the Emergency Housing Protections and Relief Act, and it should be enacted into law.

Congress must alleviate the burden of rent as our constituents must decide between putting food on the table or a roof over their head. Though the CARES Act included an important temporary eviction moratorium for some eligible tenants, it did nothing to stop unpaid rent from piling up. The solution is simple: The National Low Income Housing Coalition estimates that \$100 billion in rental assistance is necessary to avoid the devastation of affordable housing infrastructure in our communities as eviction moratoriums are lifted at the end of this crisis and back-rent is due.

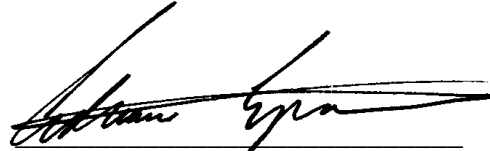
The unemployment rate is the highest it has been in decades and housing insecurity is growing--the need for Congressional action is becoming clearer as more information becomes available. In May the Census Bureau published survey results finding that nearly a quarter of respondents said they missed their last rent or mortgage payment or had little or no confidence they could make their next payment. Researchers at the COVID-19 Eviction Defense Project estimate that as many as 20% of U.S. renters could face eviction by September.

We urge you to keep the \$100 billion in emergency rental assistance funds that passed the House in the next COVID-19 relief package. Families across the country should not be forced to choose between foregoing food or medicine in order to pay rent.

Sincerely,



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
4th District of Illinois



Adriano Espaillat
13th District of New York

Co-signers:

Adam Smith
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Carolyn B. Maloney
Rosa L. DeLauro
Stephen F. Lynch
Earl Blumenauer
Jan Schakowsky
Peter A. DeFazio
Raúl M. Grijalva
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