

Honorable Governor Andrew M. Cuomo  
State Capitol, Albany, NY 12224

June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Re: Extension of Eviction Moratorium

Dear Governor Cuomo:

On behalf of the New York Housing Conference, ANHD, Enterprise Community Partners, Inc, LISC NYC and SHNNY, we would like to express our appreciation for your leadership in protecting renters and homeowners from the serious and damaging health and economic consequences of COVID-19. We respectfully ask you to use your executive authority to bolster and extend the current Eviction Moratorium and sign important housing legislation passed by the Legislature. Without action, the housing stability of low-income renters and homeowners will be at risk across New York State.

With widespread job loss and more than 30,000 dead in our state, the virus has taken a devastating toll on New York State's communities and its economy, with low-income communities and Black and Latino households bearing a disproportionate share of the health and economic harms. Prior to this health crisis, one out of every three renter households were already paying more than 30% of their income on housing in New York. While enhanced unemployment assistance and eviction moratoriums have aided many households, we are facing an eviction tsunami in August when benefits end before the economy has even partially recovered. As early as next week, renters with eviction cases, which preceded the COVID-19 crisis may be served notices of evictions. As housing court resumes this month, New York State renters, who are unable to prove COVID-related loss of income for a variety of reasons will not be protected by the current eviction moratorium expiring on August 20<sup>th</sup> and may face judgement of eviction in newly reopened housing court. We urge you to extend your original comprehensive eviction moratorium established on March 20<sup>th</sup>, which expires on June 20<sup>th</sup> to protect all renters from displacement.

NYU Furman Center estimates that nearly 1.2 million renter households in NY State have suffered COVID-19 related job loss and that half of these households are low-income. Assuming 25% job recovery, they project that in August (once enhanced benefits expire), the rental assistance need among low-income households in New York State will be approximately \$391 million per month. Without government assistance, many will be unable to afford their rent. We also urge you to sign the Emergency Rent Relief Act of 2020 (S.8419) to provide \$100 million in rental assistance. While this funding is insufficient to help all renters in need, it is an important start in providing relief.

In addition, we encourage you to sign legislation (S.8243C) to extend forbearance options for impacted homeowners with mortgages from State regulated banks. While this protection does not cover all impacted homeowners, it will help some who have lost income.

This pandemic has underscored the importance of housing to the safety and well-being of Americans. Families and individuals have been asked to socially distance to prevent the spread of the virus, and they can only do that with safe and stable housing. We urge you to use your executive powers as you have done before to protect vulnerable renters from eviction during this health crisis.

Sincerely,



Rachel Fee, Executive Director

In partnership with:

ANHD  
Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.  
LISC NYC  
Supportive Housing Network of NY