



March 30, 2020

J.B. Pritzker, Governor
State of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Gov. Pritzker:

On behalf of the Chicago City Council Latino Caucus, I am writing during this time of crisis to urge you to utilize your executive powers to blunt the impact of the increasing number of households statewide that are experiencing the loss of wages. As April 1st approaches, many renter households will find themselves in a very difficult position to cover the cost of rent; which will only worsen as the “shelter-in-place” orders are in effect, and businesses remain shuttered and experience reduced revenues. We need you to immediately repeal the Rent Control Preemption Act, establish a “rent holiday” (a period wherein renters will not be obligated to pay rent), and mortgage forgiveness for the duration of the “shelter-in-place” order and the 3 months following to help families retain their earnings in order to weather this calamity.

While we hope the relief efforts enacted will help the most vulnerable Illinoisans, 11% of the workforce in Chicago remain at high-risk of losing part of their wages (if not their entire income) as a result of the “quarantine economy - that’s 391,428 people in one city. One-time pay-outs fall short of the systemic remedies this crisis demands as we see Illinois’ infection rate climb, and elected leadership suggests prolonging the standing order to stay indoors.

Communities are unable to respond adequately to this crisis affecting hundreds of thousands of Illinoisans who have and continue to lose wages because an antiquated law stripped power away from local governments and the people. Most of the State, which experienced population and tax revenue losses, is not in a position to send checks to households in-need. Gov. Pritzker, we need you to immediately repeal the Rent Control Preemption Act, establish a “rent holiday,” and restore power back to communities to help everyday people right now. If there are specific questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to my office directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roberto Maldonado".

Roberto Maldonado, 26th Ward Alderman
Chairman of the Chicago City Council Latino Caucus

cc:

Alderman Daniel LaSpata - 1st Ward
Alderman Susan Sadlowski Garza - 10th Ward
Alderman George Cardenas - 12th Ward
Alderman Michael Rodriguez - 22nd Ward
Alderman Silvana Tabares - 23rd Ward
Alderman Byron Sigcho-Lopez - 25th Ward

Alderman Ariel Reboyras - 30th Ward
Alderman Felix Cardona - 31st Ward
Alderman Rossana Rodriguez – 33rd Ward
Alderman Carlos Ramirez-Rosa - 35th Ward
Alderman Gilbert Villegas- 36th Ward
Alderman Andres Vasquez – 40th Ward