



Lift the Ban Coalition | Campaign for Rent Stabilization in Illinois
4242 S. Cottage Grove Ave.
Chicago, IL 60653
(773) 548-7500

March 30, 2020

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

Dear Gov. Pritzker:

We are 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 contact Jawanza Malone at (312) 805-4326 or jawanza.bmalone@kocoonline.org.

Sincerely,
Lift the Ban coalition

Eric Thorsland
Champaign County Board, District 7

Daniel LaSpata
Chicago Alderman, Ward 1

Byron Sigcho-Lopez
Chicago Alderman, Ward 25



Lift the Ban Coalition | Campaign for Rent Stabilization in Illinois
4242 S. Cottage Grove Ave.
Chicago, IL 60653
(773) 548-7500

Rossana Rodriguez-Sanchez
Chicago Alderman, Ward 33

Andre Vasquez
Chicago Alderman, Ward 40

Maria Hadden
Chicago Alderman, Ward 49

Jared T. Miller
Urbana City Council, Ward 7

Adam Broad
Vernon Township Trustee

Rachel Ventura
Will County Board Member, District 9
Forest Preserve Commissioner

Access Living of Illinois
Action Now
Autonomous Tenants Union
Chicago Area Fair Housing Alliance
Chicago Democratic Socialists of America
Chicago Housing Initiative
Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights
Chicago Teachers Union
Connecting RJ Communities
Faith Coalition for the Common Good
Illinois-Iowa Center for Independent Living
Jane Addams Senior Caucus
Kenwood-Oakland Community Organization
Lugenia Burns Hope Center
Metropolitan Tenants Organization
MH Action
Neighbors for Affordable Housing
Northside Action for Justice
Northwest Side Housing Center
Northwest Side Community Development Corporation
Olivet Baptist Church (Chicago, IL)
ONE Northside
People for Community Recovery
People United for Action
Pilsen Alliance
Previous Blood Ministry of Reconciliation
Progress Center for Independent Living
Quad Cities Democratic Socialists of America
St. Kateri Center of Chicago
Service Employees International Union Healthcare IL/IN
Service Employees International Union Local 73
Únete (formerly known as Little Village Community Development Committee)
United Working Families
United Working Families of the 50th Ward



Lift the Ban Coalition | Campaign for Rent Stabilization in Illinois
4242 S. Cottage Grove Ave.
Chicago, IL 60653
(773) 548-7500

CC: Dan Hynes, Deputy Governor; Sol Flores, Deputy Governor; Sean Rapelya, Deputy Chief of Staff for External Affairs; Tiffany Newbern-Johnson, Deputy Chief of Staff for Legislative Affairs; Ramon Gardenhire, Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy