

July 29, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

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

We the undersigned organizations write to urge you to take immediate action to extend the federal eviction moratorium issued by Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to prevent evictions and the spread and deaths from COVID-19. For the 6.5 million renter households currently behind on rent, the CDC eviction moratorium has been a lifeline that has kept them housed and safe from COVID-19. On July 31, this eviction moratorium will expire—right as the Delta COVID variant is surging across the country. Recent research estimates that up to 80% of households behind on rent and at risk of eviction live in communities with over 100% COVID-19 case growth rates in July.

At the same time, only \$3 billion of the \$46 billion in Emergency Rental Assistance provided by Congress to help keep tenants housed has been distributed through June 2021. Despite these appropriations by the Biden administration and Congress, more than 6.5 million renter-households remain behind on their rent. Black households report being behind on rent at higher rates than any other group. These multiple crises exacerbate the health impacts on people of color and undermine efforts to bridge the racial wealth gap.

The emergence of the Delta variant necessitates a further extension of the CDC eviction moratorium to contain the spread of the deadly disease. As stated by CDC Director, Dr. Rochelle Walensky on July 22, 2021, “the Delta variant is more aggressive and much more transmissible than previously circulating strains. It is one of the most infectious respiratory viruses we know of, and that I have seen in my 20-year career.”

Congress must take every possible action to prevent evictions, including **enacting an extension of the federal eviction moratorium**. Tenants need more time. We are ready to support in resolving the challenges that remain, but at this moment, there is one clear solution - more time. Without immediate action, millions of these households will be at risk of losing their homes and their ability to keep themselves and their families safe and healthy. The newly surging Delta variant, low vaccination rates in communities with high eviction filings, and the slow rate of distributing ERA make the necessity of an extension abundantly clear.

The federal eviction moratorium is a public health necessity, and we urge Congress and the Biden administration to take immediate action to extend, improve, and enforce it, as well as take other needed actions to expedite the disbursement of ERA. We stand ready to assist and support you in developing protections for tenants in the midst of this unprecedented crisis.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

Action Center on Race and the Economy
African American Health Alliance
Alliance for Housing Justice
Americans for Financial Reform
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
Center for LGBTQ Economic Advancement & Research (CLEAR)
Center for Popular Democracy
Church World Service
Coalition of Labor Union Women
Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Housing Task Force
First Focus on Children
Grounded Solutions Network
Groundwork Action
Hispanic Federation
Housing Assistance Council
Indivisible
Liberation in a Generation
MomsRising
National Alliance for Safe Housing
National Alliance to End Homelessness
National Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies
National Association of Social Workers
National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development
National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel
National Coalition for Homeless Veterans
National Coalition for Latinxs with Disabilities
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)
National Fair Housing Alliance
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Homelessness Law Center
National Housing Law Project
National Housing Resource Center
National Low Income Housing Coalition
National Organization for Women
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Urban League
National Women's Law Center
People's Action
Prosperity Now
Public Citizen
Revolving Door Project

The Arc of the United States
The Shriver Center on Poverty Law
Union for Reform Judaism
UnidosUS

State and Local Organizations

Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness	Alaska
Arkansas Community Institute	Arkansas
Arkansas Community Organizations	Arkansas
Arkansas Renters United	Arkansas
All Home, California	California
Black Zebra Impact Team	California
California Coalition for Rural Housing	California
California Housing Partnership	California
California Reinvestment Coalition	California
Housing California	California
Housing Equality & Advocacy Resource Team (HEART L.A.)	California
Public Law Center	California
Colorado Coalition for the Homeless	Colorado
Covid-19 Eviction Defense Project	Colorado
Partnership for Strong Communities	Connecticut
Georgia Advancing Communities Together, Inc.	Georgia
Center for Disability & Elder Law	Illinois
Chicago Coalition for the Homeless	Illinois
Chicago Housing Justice League	Illinois
Disability Resource Center	Illinois
Garfield Park Community Council	Illinois
Health & Medicine Policy Research Group	Illinois
Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, JPIC-USA	Illinois
Housing Action Illinois	Illinois
Housing Authority of Cook County	Illinois
Housing Choice Partners	Illinois
Housing Forward	Illinois
Housing Opportunities and Maintenance for the Elderly (H.O.M.E.)	Illinois
Illinois Public Health Institute	Illinois
Latino Policy Forum	Illinois
Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing	Illinois
Legal Action Chicago	Illinois
Metropolitan Planning Council	Illinois
Northside Action for Justice	Illinois
Northwest Side Housing Center	Illinois

ONE Northside	Illinois
ReBirth of Greater Roseland/ Communities United	Illinois
South Suburban Housing Center	Illinois
The Statewide Independent Living Council of Illinois	Illinois
Woodstock Institute	Illinois
Working Family Solidarity	Illinois
Prosperity Indiana	Indiana
IH Mississippi Valley Credit Union	Iowa
Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Iowa
Johnson County Affordable Housing Coalition	Iowa
All Streets, All People (ASAP)	Louisiana
GNOHA	Louisiana
HousingLOUISIANA	Louisiana
HousingNOLA	Louisiana
Louisiana Fair Housing Action Center	Louisiana
Public Justice Center	Maryland
Citizens' Housing and Planning Association (CHAPA)	Massachusetts
Minnesota Housing Partnership	Minnesota
Nebraska Appleseed	Nebraska
Housing and Community Development Network of NJ	New Jersey
New Jersey Tenants Organization	New Jersey
334 East 92nd Street Tenant Association	New York
Children's Aid	New York
Housing Rights Initiative	New York
New York Housing Conference	New York
Prebel Street	New York
Supportive Housing Network of New York	New York
The Partnership for the Homeless	New York
North Carolina Justice Center	North Carolina
North Carolina Justice Center	North Carolina
Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio	Ohio
Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault	Oklahoma
Downtown Women's Center	Oregon
Housing Oregon	Oregon
Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania
Ayuda Legal Puerto Rico	Puerto Rico
Community Health Innovations of Rhode Island	Rhode Island
Formerly Incarcerated Union of Rhode Island	Rhode Island
House of Hope CDC	Rhode Island
HousingWorks RI	Rhode Island
Rhode Island KIDS COUNT	Rhode Island

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Memphis	Tennessee
Texas Homeless Network	Texas
Texas Housers	Texas
Texas Organizing Project	Texas
Utah Housing Coalition	Utah
Equitable Housing Institute	Virginia
Piedmont Housing Alliance	Virginia
Virginia Poverty Law Center	Virginia
Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance	Virginia
Tenant Resource Center	Wisconsin