

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 22, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Rochelle P. Walensky, MD, MPH
Office of the Director
Center for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road, NE
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear President Biden and Director Walensky:

We write to strongly urge you to extend and strengthen the federal CDC eviction moratorium beyond its current expiration date of Wednesday, June 30, 2021. We appreciate your swift action earlier this year to extend the moratorium past its original expiration date and call on you to once again take action to prevent a historic wave of evictions and keep renters safely in their homes.

Without further action, in just *eight days*, the CDC moratorium will expire, and millions of renters will once again face the threat of eviction. Evictions take lives and push households deeper into poverty, impacting everything from health outcomes to educational attainment. As workers and families across the country are just beginning to recoup from the trauma and economic hardship caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, we must take all necessary action to protect them from becoming unhoused during this vulnerable time.

The Biden Administration can do this by extending and significantly strengthening the current CDC moratorium to ensure the protections are automatic, self-executing, and that tenants are not expected to navigate a myriad of overly burdensome eligibility requirements in order to safely remain in their homes. The eviction crisis is a racial justice issue. According to data collected from the Census Bureau's Household Pulse Survey conducted May 12-24, Black, Latino, Asian, and Indigenous households are more likely to report being behind on their rental payments¹. By extending the moratorium and incorporating these critical improvements to protect vulnerable renters, we can work to curtail the eviction crisis disproportionately impacting our communities of color.

In December, Congress provided \$46 billion in emergency rental assistance in the American Rescue Plan Act, and state and local governments are still working on designing, scaling, and distributing aid to help renters dig out of rental debt that they incurred through no fault of their own. Millions of renters are still struggling to access this aid. State and local governments need time, resources, and new guidance to deliver the rescue aid Congress provided.

According to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, an estimated 6 million renter households are behind on their rent and at risk of eviction². While vaccination rates are up and COVID-19 caseloads are

¹ Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, "Tracking the COVID-19 Recession's Effects on Food, Housing, and Employment Hardships," accessed on June 16, 2021. <https://www.cbpp.org/research/poverty-and-inequality/tracking-the-covid-19-recessions-effects-on-food-housing-and>

² U.S. Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey, Week 30. https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/demo/tables/hhp/2021/wk30/housing1b_week30.xlsx

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down in many communities, those communities with lower vaccination rates and higher COVID-19 cases tend to be the same as those with renters at heightened risk of eviction when the moratorium expires. Allowing the moratorium to expire before vaccination rates increase in marginalized communities could lead to increased spread of, and deaths from, COVID-19.

There has been overwhelming support for extending and strengthening the federal eviction moratorium from housing advocates, health care providers, policymakers, and Members of Congress³⁴ alike. The impact of the federal moratorium cannot be overstated, and the need to strengthen and extend it is an urgent matter of health, racial, and economic justice. We ask that you take urgent action to protect millions of families across the country.

Sincerely,



Ayanna Pressley
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Jimmy Gomez
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Cori Bush
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Ritchie Torres
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Nydia M. Velázquez
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Frederica S. Wilson
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Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
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Brenda L. Lawrence
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

³ Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, “Pressley, Gomez, Colleagues Call on President-Elect Biden to Extend Eviction Moratorium on First Day in Office,” (January 15, 2021). <https://pressley.house.gov/media/press-releases/pressley-gomez-colleagues-call-president-elect-biden-extend-eviction-moratorium>

⁴ Congresswoman Cori Bush, “Congresswoman Cori Bush Leads House Colleagues in Calling on the CDC to Strengthen and Extend the Federal Eviction Moratorium,” (May 18, 2021). <https://bush.house.gov/media/press-releases/congresswoman-cori-bush-leads-house-colleagues-calling-cdc-strengthen-and>

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