

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 31, 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 implore you once again to do everything in your power to prevent the historic and deadly wave of evictions that will occur should the government fail to extend the eviction moratorium scheduled to expire today.

In the midst of the ongoing pandemic and the growing surges of the Delta variant across the nation, the impending eviction crisis is a matter of public health and safety and demands an urgent government response. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention must leverage every authority available to extend the eviction moratorium before it is too late.

In the meantime, we are continuing to work diligently to push for legislative action and ensure that states and localities in our districts are disbursing the billions in critical emergency rental assistance to renters and property owners that Congress passed most recently as part of the American Rescue Plan.

Government leaders at every level of government must act to protect the communities we represent. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, an estimated 6 million renter households are behind on their rent and at risk of eviction.¹ Long before the pandemic, evictions were a form of violence that disproportionately impacted Black and brown communities and today, these trends remain the same. Data collected from the Census Bureau's Household Pulse Survey conducted May 12-24, shows that Black, Latino, Asian, and Indigenous households are more likely to report being behind on their rental payments.²

The eviction crisis will only exacerbate the trauma and hurt that has been borne by our most vulnerable communities and undermine our national efforts to combat the spread of this virus. While national vaccination rates are continuing to trend upwards and COVID-19 hospitalization rates are down in many communities, 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

¹ U.S. Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey, Week 30.

https://www2.census.gov/programssurveys/demo/tables/hhp/2021/wk30/housing1b_week30.xlsx

² 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-andinequality/tracking-the-covid-19-recessions-effects-on-food-housing-and>

moratorium to expire before vaccination rates increase in marginalized communities will lead to increased spread of, and deaths from, COVID-19.

Extending the eviction moratorium is a matter of life and death for the communities we represent. The eviction moratorium expires tonight at midnight. We implore you to act with the urgency this moment demands.

Sincerely,



Ayanna Pressley
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



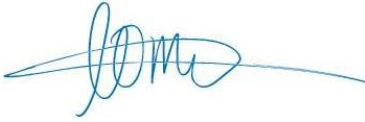
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