

U.S. Poverty Monthly Action

Washington lets down the American people

After weeks of back and forth negotiating, the prospects of a broad COVID relief bill before the election were dashed when [President Trump withdrew from negotiations on October 6](#). Despite widespread hardship across the country and the Federal Reserve warning that the economy is in real danger without more stimulus from Congress, the President's decision seems calloused and reckless.

The facts on the ground have not changed. **Emergency rental assistance is still needed to help renters (and [small landlords](#)) pay the rent.** [Economist Mark Zandi](#) estimates that tenants will owe \$70 billion in back rent by the end of the year. Congress must pass another relief package NOW that includes \$100 billion for rental assistance. Otherwise, renters face a looming crisis when the CDC's eviction moratorium ends in December.

Only public pressure can get a deal done

While the prospects of a deal before the election have seem to have ended, we must keep the pressure on Congress and the White House to get a deal done as soon as possible (if not before the election, the right after). Your 103 letters to the editor in September helped push negotiations forward, your media this month will keep the public focus on what it should be – helping the American people get through the worst pandemic and economic crisis in a century. Use the letter to template below or [our online version](#) to submit your letters today urging Congress and the President back to the negotiating table.

I am outraged that President Trump has walked away from COVID relief negotiations. Where is the urgency for the millions of Americans still suffering through the worst economic crisis in a century?

The situation for American renters and landlords is particularly dire. Without help, unemployed renters and their landlords will continue to accumulate bills they cannot pay. Economist Mark Zandi estimates that renters could owe \$70 billion in back rent by January. On October 1, the House passed a compromise measure that would, among other things, provide robust rental assistance through early 2021. However, instead of working to reach a deal, the President just walked away (and the Senate is MIA).

Families struggling to keep a roof over their heads should not be left to face this crisis alone. I urge leaders in Washington to get their priorities straight and pass a strong COVID-19 relief bill ASAP that includes at least \$100 billion in rental assistance for the coming year.

Be sure to [leverage your published media](#) by sending it (and [total RESULTS media for the year](#)) to House and Senate aides and urging other you know to write letters in response.