

The RESULTS logo consists of the word "results" in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font, colored in a dark blue. It is contained within a white speech bubble shape with rounded corners and a small tail pointing towards the bottom-left.

**RESULTS Media: U.S.
Poverty and COVID-19
Response**

March 27, 2020 – September 15, 2020

Media on U.S. poverty and COVID-19 response from March 27 – September 15, 2020

#	State	Article	Outlet	Media Type
<u>Go to - Alaska Media</u>				
1	AK	Hunger and COVID-19	Daily Sitka Sentinel	Letter to the editor
<u>Go to - Alabama Media</u>				
2	AL	We need justice times three	Mobile Press-Register	Letter to the editor
3	AL	We Need Justice Times Three	Birmingham News	Letter to the editor
4	AL	We need justice times three	Huntsville times	Letter to the editor
<u>Go to - Arizona Media</u>				
5	AZ	Re: the July 7. article "Commentary: More than policing needs to change"	Arizona Daily Star	Letter to the editor
6	AZ	Re: the Aug. 16. article "Navajo women mobilize to protect elders from COVID-19"	Arizona Daily Star	Letter to the editor
<u>Go to - California Media</u>				
7	CA	Time to speak up	Antelope Valley Press	Letter to the editor
8	CA	Much Needed Emergency Rental Assistance	The Union Newspaper	Letter to the editor
<u>Go to - Colorado Media</u>				
9	CO	End housing crisis	Boulder Weekly	Letter to the editor
<u>Go to - Connecticut Media</u>				
10	CT	Bill can feed the hungry, and the economy	Danbury News Times	Op-ed
11	CT	Bill can feed the hungry, and the economy	Torrington Register Citizen	Op-ed

12	CT	Bill can feed the hungry, and the economy	New Haven Register	Op-ed
13	CT	Bill can feed the hungry, and the economy	Connecticut Post	Op-ed
14	CT	Bill can feed the hungry, and the economy	Norwalk Hour	Op-ed
15	CT	Bill can feed the hungry, and the economy	Greenwich Time	Op-ed
16	CT	Bill can feed the hungry, and the economy	Stamford Advocate	Op-ed
17	CT	Evictions on brink of skyrocketing without intervention	Danbury News Times	Op-ed
18	CT	Evictions on brink of skyrocketing without intervention	Torrington Register Citizen	Op-ed
19	CT	Evictions on brink of skyrocketing without intervention	New Haven Register	Op-ed
20	CT	Evictions on brink of skyrocketing without intervention	Connecticut Post	Op-ed
21	CT	Evictions on brink of skyrocketing without intervention	Norwalk Hour	Op-ed
22	CT	Evictions on brink of skyrocketing without intervention	Greenwich Time	Op-ed
23	CT	Evictions on brink of skyrocketing without intervention	Stamford Advocate	Op-ed
24	CT	Housing should be non-partisan issue	Danbury News Times	Letter to the editor

25	CT	Housing should be non-partisan issue	Torrington Register Citizen	Letter to the editor
26	CT	Housing should be non-partisan issue	New Haven Register	Letter to the editor
27	CT	Housing should be non-partisan issue	Connecticut Post	Letter to the editor
28	CT	Housing should be non-partisan issue	Norwalk Hour	Letter to the editor
29	CT	Housing should be non-partisan issue	Greenwich Time	Letter to the editor
30	CT	Housing should be non-partisan issue	Stamford Advocate	Letter to the editor
31	CT	Break the stalemate	Danbury News Times	Letter to the editor
32	CT	Break the stalemate	Torrington Register Citizen	Letter to the editor
33	CT	Break the stalemate	New Haven Register	Letter to the editor
34	CT	Break the stalemate	Norwalk Hour	Letter to the editor
35	CT	Break the stalemate	Greenwich Time	Letter to the editor
36	CT	Break the stalemate	Stamford Advocate	Letter to the editor
37	CT	Break the stalemate	Connecticut Post	Letter to the editor
Go to - Florida Media				
38	FL	Congress needs to help people stay in their homes	Port Charlotte Sun	Letter to the editor
39	FL	Time to act is now on affordable housing	Miami Herald	Op-ed
40	FL	Congress must act now to help housing needs during COVID-19	South Florida Sun Sentinel	Op-ed
41	FL	Rental assistance needed	Tampa Bay Times	Letter to the editor
42	FL	Renters Need Help	Tampa Bay Times	Letter to the editor

43	FL	The coming rent disaster	Sun Sentinel	News article or feature
<u>Go to - Georgia Media</u>				
44	GA	Fighting COVID-19 Must Be Done on a Global Scale	AJC	Letter to the editor
<u>Go to - Iowa Media</u>				
45	IA	We must be forgiving on rent during pandemic	Des Moines Register	Letter to the editor
46	IA	Americans need Congress to pass relief	Des Moines Register	Letter to the editor
<u>Go to - Idaho Media</u>				
47	ID	Homelessness	Idaho Press	Letter to the editor
48	ID	Wait and see	Idaho Press	Letter to the editor
49	ID	Rental Assistance	Idaho Statesman	Letter to the editor
50	ID	Evictions	Idaho Statesman	Letter to the editor
51	ID	Homelessness	Idaho Press	Letter to the editor
<u>Go to - Illinois Media</u>				
52	IL	COVID-19 can make homelessness worse	The Southern Illinoisan	Letter to the editor
53	IL	Message To Our Lawmakers	Webster-Kirkwood Times	Letter to the editor
54	IL	Your View	Alton Telegraph	Letter to the editor
<u>Go to - Indiana Media</u>				
55	IN	Reader urges Congress to enact COVID-19 bill	The Hamilton Times	Letter to the editor
56	IN	Reader was action now to protect renters	The Hamilton Times	Letter to the editor
57	IN	CDC's effort to halt evictions isn't enough for struggling tenants and landlords	Indianapolis Star	Letter to the editor

Go to - Kansas Media

58	KS	Letter to the editor: Help the needy	Lawrence Journal World	Letter to the editor
59	KS	Letter to the Editor - Mercedeh Tavacoli	The Miami County Republic	Letter to the editor
60	KS	Renters' Tax Credit would Help	Topeka Capitol Journal	Letter to the editor
61	KS	Letter to the editor: Next package should help with food, housing	Topeka Capital-Journal	Letter to the editor
62	KS	Student pushes for a rent holiday/national moratorium on evictions	KState Collegian	News article or feature
63	KS	Leaders must help most vulnerable	Topeka Capital-Journal	Letter to the editor
64	KS	Prioritize help for hunger, housing	Topeka Capital-Journal	Letter to the editor
65	KS	Letter to the editor	The Butler County Times Gazette	Letter to the editor
66	KS	Letter to the editor	The Morning Sun	Letter to the editor
67	KS	Letter to the editor	The Kansan	Letter to the editor
68	KS	Letter to the editor	Ottawa Herald	Letter to the editor
69	KS	Letter to the editor	Leavenworth Times	Letter to the editor
70	KS	KSU seniors grateful for senator's efforts	Garden City Telegram	Letter to the editor
71	KS	KSU seniors grateful for senator's efforts	Hutchinson News	Letter to the editor
72	KS	KSU seniors grateful for senator's efforts	Salina Journal	Letter to the editor
73	KS	KSU seniors grateful for senator's efforts	Hays Daily News	Letter to the editor

74	KS	KSU seniors grateful for senator's efforts	St. John News	Letter to the editor
75	KS	KSU seniors grateful for senator's efforts	Leavenworth Times	Letter to the editor
76	KS	KSU seniors grateful for senator's efforts	Morning Sun	Letter to the editor
77	KS	KSU seniors grateful for senator's efforts	Ottawa Herald	Letter to the editor
78	KS	KSU seniors grateful for senator's efforts	Topeka Capital Journal	Letter to the editor
79	KS	KSU seniors grateful for senator's efforts	Pratt Tribune	Letter to the editor
80	KS	Grateful for Roberts' coronavirus relief work	Manhattan Mercury	Letter to the editor
81	KS	Students advocate for International Poverty relief with RESULTS	Kansas State Collegian	News article or feature
82	KS	We must stop evictions during crisis	Topeka Capital Journal	Letter to the editor
83	KS	COVID-19 deal should address rentals, SNAP	Leavenworth Times	Letter to the editor
84	KS	COVID-19 deal should address rentals, SNAP	Capital Journal	Letter to the editor
85	KS	COVID-19 deal should address rentals, SNAP	Hutchison News	Letter to the editor
86	KS	COVID-19 deal should address rentals, SNAP	Ottawa Herald	Letter to the editor
87	KS	COVID-19 deal should address rentals, SNAP	Garden City Telegram	Letter to the editor
88	KS	COVID-19 deal should address rentals, SNAP	Salina Journal	Letter to the editor
89	KS	COVID-19 deal should address rentals, SNAP	Hayes Daily News	Letter to the editor

90	KS	COVID-19 deal should address rentals, SNAP	Morning Sun	Letter to the editor
91	KS	Congress, President should resume COVID-19 negotiations	Great Bend Tribune	Letter to the editor
92	KS	It's time for Congress to Act	Topeka Capitol Journal	Op-ed
<u>Go to - Massachusetts Media</u>				
93	MA	Congress needs to approve more resources to avoid evictions, foreclosures	Herald News	Letter to the editor
94	MA	We need a bold COVID relief package now	The Berkshire Eagle	Letter to the editor
<u>Go to - Maryland Media</u>				
95	MD	Online grocery purchases a welcome reform, but increasing SNAP benefit would be even better	Baltimore Sun	Letter to the editor
<u>Go to - Michigan Media</u>				
96	MI	No work. No house. No help.	Detroit Free Press	Letter to the editor
<u>Go to - Minnesota Media</u>				
97	MN	Speak up now for a better future	Duluth News Tribune	Letter to the editor
98	MN	Rent relief, no evictions still needed	Duluth Tribune	Letter to the editor
99	MN	Urge Senate to pass HEROES Act	Duluth News Tribune	Letter to the editor
100	MN	Covid-19	Star Tribune	Letter to the editor
<u>Go to - Missouri Media</u>				
101	MO	Congress must pass moratorium on evictions	The St. Louis American	Letter to the editor

102	MO	Stay at home orders requires having homes	Joplin Globe	Letter to the editor
103	MO	Protect, expand SNAP benefits	The Joplin Globe	Letter to the editor
104	MO	We should increase SNAP	St. Louis American	Letter to the editor
105	MO	US really needs rental assistance and hunger relief	St. Louis Post Dispatch	Letter to the editor
106	MO	Solving eviction problem aids in the schools' reopening	St. Louis Post-Dispatch	Letter to the editor
107	MO	Empty Moves	Kansas City Star	Letter to the editor
Go to - Montana Media				
108	MT	Use voice to urge Congress to help others	The Missoulian	Letter to the editor
109	MT	Letter to the editor	Daily Interlake	Letter to the editor
110	MT	Don't forget about deaths from AIDS, TB and malaria	Missoulian	Letter to the editor
111	MT	Taxed into deeper poverty	Montana Standard	Letter to the editor
112	MT	Senate leaders must take action now	Missoulian	Letter to the editor
Go to - North Carolina Media				
113	NC	Letter: Lawmakers must do more to protect individuals experiencing homelessness	The Chronicle	Letter to the editor
114	NC	Many can't pay rent, mortgages. Enact a national moratorium on evictions and foreclosures.	News and Observer	Letter to the editor
115	NC	Let's not make regrettable choices	Asheville Citizen Times	Letter to the editor
116	NC	Protecting those who need it	Asheville Citizen-Times	Letter to the editor

117	NC	NC Lawmakers Fail To Bring Relief to Struggling Residents	North Carolina Public News Service	Radio spot
118	NC	We need leaders who lead	Asheville Citizen Times	Letter to the editor
119	NC	COVID RELIEF	News & Observer Newspaper, Raleigh	Letter to the editor
<u>Go to - North Dakota Media</u>				
120	ND	Increase SNAP benefits until this crisis passes	Fargo Forum	Letter to the editor
<u>Go to - New Hampshire Media</u>				
121	NH	We need action now on COVID relief bill	Keene Sentinel	Letter to the editor
<u>Go to - New Mexico Media</u>				
122	NM	Help each other — and start speaking out	Santa Fe New Mexican	Letter to the editor
123	NM	Hungry children need help now	Santa Fe New Mexican	Op-ed
124	NM	Congress must act to relieve suffering	Santa Fe New Mexican	Letter to the editor
<u>Go to - Nevada Media</u>				
125	NV	People struggling need help now	Las Vegas Sun	Letter to the editor
126	NV	Tell Congress to act heroically	Las Vegas Sun	Letter to the editor
<u>Go to - Ohio Media</u>				
127	OH	Financial assistance crucial to prevent mass evictions	Columbus Dispatch	Letter to the editor
128	OH	Virus, joblessness demand we help fellow Americans	Columbus Dispatch	Letter to the editor
129	OH	People of color suffer most medically, economically	Columbus Dispatch	Letter to the editor

Go to - Oregon Media

130	OR	COVID vulnerable	Hood River News	Letter to the editor
131	OR	Even more stimulation	Eugene Weekly	Letter to the editor
132	OR	Congress should provide rent relief in pandemic	Portland Tribune (and Pamplin Media Group)	Letter to the editor
133	OR	Americans can work together	Eugene Weekly	Letter to the editor
134	OR	Country of hope	Hood River News	Letter to the editor
135	OR	Congress must act now to prevent millions from being evicted	La Grande Observer	Letter to the editor
136	OR	Relief package and emergency rental assistance needed sooner rather than later	La Grande Observer	Letter to the editor

Go to - Pennsylvania Media

137	PA	Housing crisis will get worse; we must act	Erie Times-News	Letter to the editor
138	PA	Housing measures needed during crisis	Observer-Reporter	Letter to the editor
139	PA	Strengthen food assistance across nation	Pittsburgh Tribune-Review	Letter to the editor
140	PA	Provide rental assistance	Pittsburgh Post-Gazette	Letter to the editor
141	PA	Provide rental assistance	Pittsburgh Post-Gazette	Letter to the editor
142	PA	COVID-19 sparks need for housing	Daily Times	Letter to the editor
143	PA	Keeping people in their homes should be a priority	The Sentinel	Letter to the editor
144	PA	Housing crisis will only get worse during pandemic	Erie Times-News	Letter to the editor
145	PA	A need for rental assistance	The Sentinel	Letter to the editor

146	PA	Protect Renters with Federal Aid	Ambler Gazette	Letter to the editor
<u>Go to - Texas Media</u>				
147	TX	A renter's tax credit would provide relief	Austin American Statesman	Letter to the editor
148	TX	Spend now or pay more later	Fort Worth Telegram	Letter to the editor
149	TX	Cornyn, Senate should pass a relief package	Austin American Statesman	Letter to the editor
150	TX	Ditch power struggles and help working people	Austin American-Statesman	Letter to the editor
151	TX	I'll keep fighting for more pandemic relief	Austin American-Statesman	Letter to the editor
<u>Go to - US National Media</u>				
152	US	The wealth crisis affecting Black Americans is only getting worse thanks to evictions — and covid-19	Washington Post	Letter to the editor
<u>Go to - Utah Media</u>				
153	UT	Stimulus checks are a great start, but Americans need more help	Deseret News	Letter to the editor
154	UT	We need emergency rent assistance	Salt Lake City Tribune	Letter to the editor
155	UT	A post-pandemic world should deliver a new future for capitalism	Deseret News	Op-ed
156	UT	The Senate should focus on aiding global initiatives	Deseret News	Letter to the editor
157	UT	The pandemic has only made homelessness worse	Deseret News	Letter to the editor
158	UT	EITC would help deal with pandemic	Salt Lake City Tribune	Letter to the editor
159	UT	Congress can do better	Park Record	Letter to the editor

160	UT	HEALS Act should help working families	Salt Lake City Tribune	Letter to the editor
161	UT	We must see that we are at war.	Salt Lake Tribune	Letter to the editor
162	UT	The rich get richer and the poor get poorer	Standard Examiner	Letter to the editor
163	UT	Food uncertainty and COVID-19	The Spectrum	Letter to the editor
164	UT	Kids deserve to know where their next meal will come from	Deseret News	Letter to the editor
165	UT	The Senate should be helping Americans, not taking a vacation	Deseret News	Letter to the editor
Go to - Virginia Media				
166	VA	COVID-19 Quickly Adding Hunger to its List of Health Risks	Alexandria Gazette	Letter to the editor
Go to - Washington Media				
167	WA	Housing aide needed urgently by many	Everett Herald	Letter to the editor
168	WA	Join the battle	The Daily News	Letter to the editor
169	WA	We can also influence Congress during pandemic	Union-Bulletin	Letter to the editor
170	WA	Housing Crisis during Pandemic	The Olympian	Letter to the editor
171	WA	Help workers pay the rent	The Columbian	Letter to the editor
172	WA	Soaring unemployment: Congress must do more	The Seattle Times	Letter to the editor
173	WA	Congress is making progress on poverty	Kitsap Sun	Letter to the editor
174	WA	Housing relief is vital	Spokesman-Review	Letter to the editor
175	WA	Rental insecurity	Snohomish Tribune	Letter to the editor
176	WA	Don't waste opportunity	Seattle Times	Letter to the editor

177	WA	Inequity is the true plague	The Columbian	Letter to the editor
178	WA	Remember less Fortunate: "We're all in this together"	The Seattle Times	Letter to the editor
179	WA	Make a difference	The Daily News	Letter to the editor
180	WA	Government cooperation appreciated	Walla Walla Union Bulletin	Letter to the editor
181	WA	Leaders in Congress must hear our voices	Bainbridge Island Review	Letter to the editor
182	WA	Newhouse should push for renter relief	Yakima Herald	Letter to the editor
183	WA	It is time to fill the cracks that millions of Americans are falling through	Tacoma Weekly	Op-ed
184	WA	Our ill workers need federal help	Tri-City Herald	Letter to the editor
185	WA	Peaceful protests	Snohomish Tribune	Letter to the editor
186	WA	On the front lines	The Daily News	Letter to the editor
187	WA	Speaking up can lead to policy changes	Kitsap Sun	Letter to the editor
188	WA	Be inspired, speak up	The Columbian	Letter to the editor
189	WA	The legacy of Covid-19	The Olympian	Letter to the editor
190	WA	Congress must act now to prevent evictions	Union Bulletin	Letter to the editor
191	WA	Time to call	The Daily News	Letter to the editor
192	WA	Let Congress hear your concerns on pandemic relief bill	Everett Herald	Letter to the editor
193	WA	Speak up for change	Spokesman Review	Letter to the editor
194	WA	Without action by Congress, wave of evictions looms	Everett Herald	Letter to the editor
195	WA	Let Congress hear you	The Columbian	Letter to the editor

196	WA	Demand rent relief	The Daily News	Letter to the editor
197	WA	Pandemic Relief: Demand Senate action	Snohomish Tribune	Letter to the editor
Go to - Wisconsin Media				
198	WI	Renters need help from Congress	Wisconsin State Journal	Letter to the editor
Go to - West Virginia Media				
199	WV	Congress needs to act now	Charleston Gazette-Mail	Op-ed
Go to - Wyoming Media				
200	WY	Ask Congress to provide emergency rental assistance, prevent evictions	Wyoming Tribune Eagle	Letter to the editor
201	WY	Congress must act quickly to provide relief for renters	Wyoming Tribune Eagle	Letter to the editor



Hunger and COVID-19

May 6, 2020

Dear Editor:

COVID-19 is quickly adding hunger to its list of health risks. With more than 30 million Americans unemployed, people are being forced to choose between rent and groceries. Meanwhile, food banks throughout the country are overwhelmed, and missed school meals are threatening the nutritional health of our children.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly Food Stamps) is our nation's first line of defense against hunger. And it is built for crises just like this. Back in 2008, SNAP not only kept food on the table for millions, it helped the economy recover (every \$1 in new SNAP spending creates \$1.50-1.80 in economic activity). It is ready to do so again, but Congress must act.

I urge our members of Congress to help hungry Americans by quickly passing legislation that increases the maximum SNAP benefit by 15 percent until this economic crisis ends.

Michele Friedman, Brenda Campen,, Kim Kirkness, Libby Stortz, Kathy Kyle, Mike Litman, Donna Donohoe, Mim McConnell, Mary Soltis, Toby Campbell

<http://sitkasentinel.com/7/2012-05-10-22-08-58/letters-to-the-editor/16538-may-6-2020-letters-to-the-editor>

We need justice times three

July 19, 2020

Our members of Congress and their staffers have devoted many hours to addressing the pandemic, and now police brutality is also demanding a response. A third simmering crisis is global warming. A commonality among the pandemic, cruel policing, and climate change is that each disproportionately assaults African Americans. Each catastrophe is underscoring that racial injustice remains central to our nation. It is essential that as they design policy solutions for these three pressing problems, Senators Jones and Shelby, and Representatives Palmer and Sewell insist on justice for all. Policy that is not just is not a solution

Emily Northrop

The Birmingham News

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July 19, 2020

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Emily Northrop



Letter: Re: the July 7. article “Commentary: More than policing needs to change”

July 8, 2020

Dear Editor,

Thanks for the excellent piece on reforming the justice system to bring equity to all Americans. And of course, we need to look at the stark differences in basic needs among working people: full time work should be able to pay for housing, health care, food, transportation, and education. This means creating a living wage for all workers. In the moment, relief in the form of renters’ assistance, a moratorium on evictions, and an increase in funding to SNAP to fight hunger, have all been passed by the House. For any of these changes, our voices are needed to bring about the political will. We do this with our calls, letters, and visits to those who represent us. And our votes in November. Congress will listen if we speak up.

Willie Dickerson

https://tucson.com/opinion/letters/letter-re-the-july-article-ldquo-commentary-more-than-policing/article_ab671e5e-c14f-11ea-9096-8fd9550d54b0.html



Letter: Re: the Aug. 16. article “Navajo women mobilize to protect elders from COVID-19”

August 26, 2020

Dear Editor,

Three Navaho women inspire us to do our part, as they take care of the elderly during the pandemic. Their actions remind us that we can do something to help those in need, building much needed relationships at the same time. For some of us this means voting and asking our representatives in Congress to pass Covid relief. In fact, three months ago the House did just that. Now it is time for the Senate to take action, passing relief for renters, the hungry, public health departments, and state and local governments. We can call or write them, encouraging others to do the same, so the Senate will feel the pressure and pass these important parts of the Heroes Act.

Willie Dickerson

https://tucson.com/opinion/letters/letter-re-the-aug-16-article-navajo-women-mobilize-to-protect-elders-from-covid-19/article_8e755b40-e403-11ea-909c-ab0a4c02466f.html



Time to speak up

April 12, 2020

Good news at least some homeless folks will have a place to go. (“Homeless shelter to continue operating” from a press release, *AV Press*, April 2, 2020).

Without a place to shelter or wash hands people are in danger from the virus in then in danger of spreading the virus. Time to call, write and/or virtually visit those who represent us in Congress, asking them to make sure the next relief package focuses on solutions for the homeless and for renters who may otherwise join the ranks of the homeless.

Willie Dickerson

https://www.avpress.com/opinion/letters/letters-from-readers-april-12-2020/article_5e5146a4-7c66-11ea-b50f-4f54351cd5fc.html

THE UNION

Much needed emergency rental assistance

June 2, 2020

The COVID-19 crisis is the threat to millions of Americans of losing their home, eviction and homelessness.

Today, 25% of all renters pay half their income on rent (source: Senator Sherrod Brown, May 2020). With increasing unemployment, even fewer Americans can pay their rent. This untenable situation does not have to be the legacy of the pandemic if addressed by Congress. Fortunately, the House has drafted legislation that provides \$100 billion for emergency rental assistance and a national moratorium on evictions for one year.

In normal times, this kind of spending would be considered wasteful, but we are not in normal times. Please contact your members of Congress – Rep. LaMalfa, Senators Feinstein and Harris – asking them to pass such legislation and avert a nationwide disaster of increased homelessness.

Carolyn Feuille

<https://www.theunion.com/opinion/letters/carolyn-feuille-much-needed-emergency-rental-assistance/>



End housing crisis

April 9, 2020

As the affordable housing crisis looms, evictions rise and wages remain stagnant, we can take action to make a difference ("Taking initiative," News, Feb. 27). Since rents have risen over 60% and wages only 6% since the 1960s (according to a Harvard study), it is not surprising millions of Americans are rent burdened to the point of eviction or choosing between rent and food. Currently there are proposals in Congress for a renters' tax credit, more affordable housing to be built and minimum wage raises. This is a multi-pronged approach to battle a crisis that leads to evictions, hunger and homelessness. Our voices can turn this around by asking those who represent us in Congress to pass these and other initiatives. Our calls, letters and visits to our senators and representatives can help end this crisis.

Willie Dickerson

<https://www.boulderweekly.com/opinion/letters-4-9-2020/>



Bill can feed the hungry, and the economy

May 8, 2020

COVID-19 is making me crazy. You too? Don't go out of your home. If you do, don't go without a mask. And gloves. Don't stand within six feet of other people. And, most crazy making, in the worst economic slowdown since the 1930s don't go to work.

With many businesses closed, a lot of people have no work to go to. As self-quarantining and business closures continue, many of our neighbors must choose between groceries and rent, or between groceries and the utilities they need to cook what they bought. Or both.

Congress needs to increase help to our neighbors and the economy. One bill that can do that is now before the Congress: The SNAP Carry Act, sponsored by our own Sen. Chris Murphy.

SNAP (formerly food stamps) is our most effective anti-hunger program, lifting millions of Americans out of poverty every year. SNAP has a lesser-known companion program, the SNAP Restaurant Meal Program (RMP), which allows homeless, elderly, or disabled individuals, who may not have the ability to store or cook food, to pay for prepared meals using their SNAP benefits at participating restaurants, delis, or stores. To qualify, a restaurant must offer some lower-cost menu choices.

The SNAP Carry Act would lift statutory limitations on RMP eligibility to include all SNAP participants residing in an area where a Presidential Declaration of Disaster or a Public Health crisis has been declared. This means that nutritious food would be available to families who are unable to afford it or unable to cook it.

Restaurants, which have suffered huge losses, would also benefit with additional customers, allowing many of these small businesses to survive. The restaurants would be able to retain or rehire cooks and wait-staff, who would then get paid and would spend on their needs, creating ripples through the economy. Economists estimate that every additional \$1.00 spent on SNAP benefits generates \$1.70 of economic growth.

In addition, Congress must include a SNAP benefits increase in the next federal COVID-19 relief package. Specifically, one increasing the maximum benefit available to all households by 15 percent and increasing the minimum benefit from \$16 dollars to \$30. This increase is needed to offset the significant loss in income and soaring unemployment resulting from COVID-19-related closures and disruptions.

Your voice is needed to help our friends, our neighbors, and our country to get back on their feet. Please call Senator Murphy's office to tell him you support his bill and that you also want to see SNAP increased in the next COVID package. Next, call Sen. Richard Blumenthal's office and urge him to support these initiatives too. Then call your representative's office, whether Jim Himes, Rosa DeLauro, or Jahana Hayes, and tell them to support Rep. Panetta's companion bill in the House and to support the SNAP increase. Finally, call friends and relatives, here in Connecticut and around the country, asking them to call their members of Congress as well.

William Baker of Stamford is a volunteer advocate for RESULTS, a worldwide organization working to end poverty.

<https://www.newstimes.com/opinion/article/Opinion-Bill-can-feed-the-hungry-and-the-economy-15252517.php>

THE REGISTER CITIZEN

Bill can feed the hungry, and the economy

May 8, 2020

COVID-19 is making me crazy. You too? Don't go out of your home. If you do, don't go without a mask. And gloves. Don't stand within six feet of other people. And, most crazy making, in the worst economic slowdown since the 1930s don't go to work.

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Bill can feed the hungry, and the economy

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COVID-19 has exposed the raw underbelly of America’s structural racism, inequities in policing, public health, education, housing and wealth. We need solutions on all levels, but in this instant a full-blown emergency looms for millions.

Before the pandemic, America’s housing situation was in crisis, especially for people of color. Since 1960, renters’ median earnings have gone up 5 percent while rents have risen by 61 percent. Now with the virus outbreak, millions of Americans who have lost work are at much greater risk of losing their homes.

The Advocate article details the stress renters face, losing jobs then choosing between paying rent, eating or paying bills. In this as so many other aspects of U.S. life, Black, Latinx and Asian workers are disproportionately represented. (Last week’s unemployment figures dropped mostly for white workers only.) And because unemployment insurance is slow arriving, people fell behind in rents in April, then May, now in June. Landlords, who are also losing income, are preparing to file evictions in under three weeks.

This is a crisis. The prospect of thousands of families and children losing their homes even as COVID-19 rages is unthinkable. The state is trying to address some of the shortfall, but Congress can and must act now. The House has passed the Heroes Act, providing \$100 billion in rental assistance — benefiting landlords as well as renters — but the Senate is stalling, to see what the economy might do.

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Lucinda Winslow, a long-time Stamford resident, is a volunteer activist for RESULTS.org, a movement of passionate, everyday people who use their voices to influence political decisions that will bring an end to poverty.

<https://www.stamfordadvocate.com/opinion/article/Opinion-Evictions-on-brink-of-skyrocketing-15349238.php>

Housing should be non-partisan issue

Monday August 10, 2020

There's a power outage in Congress! And not the kind caused by Isaias. They seem unable — or unwilling — to take their power in hand to help families losing their homes in the midst of the Pandemic.

With the economy struggling and businesses closing, millions of low-income families have lost jobs. And, because the temporary increase in unemployment benefits has expired, very soon they will be unable to pay the rent. Already many low-income renters are facing eviction and homelessness, even as the pandemic grows and grows.

Congress must take responsibility now. In May, the House passed legislation providing \$100 billion in emergency rental assistance and extending a national moratorium on evictions. This would allow families to make their rent payments, and it would ensure that landlords would continue to get paid until the economy improves. The Senate; however, does not want to spend the money or compromise, despite a proposal to “meet in the middle” on the total cost, an idea that was rebuffed by the White House. Then the Senate adjourned for their August recess.

With eviction notices flying, we cannot simply wait and hope. Congress and the president need to agree on a bill that includes assistance for renters (and their landlords) and pass it NOW!

You can help by writing to Senators Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy and to the president to enact a fair deal. The non-partisan organization RESULTS has a letter that you can use as is or customize and send it at the touch of a button. Find it at bit.ly/3kyvUly. COVID is non-partisan! Housing for families should be non-partisan too.

William Baker, a Stamford resident, is a volunteer advocate for RESULTS, a worldwide, non-partisan organization seeking to create the political will to end poverty.

<https://www.newstimes.com/opinion/article/Letter-Housing-should-be-non-partisan-issue-15473670.php>

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Break the stalemate

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As Rep. Rosa DeLauro pointed out in her op-ed, [Senate needs to act to help education](#), families and school districts struggling to get kids back to school need Congress to get back to work on a relief bill.

As much as schools need funding for teachers, technology and PPE to restart, there is another stumbling block to education for the nation's poorest children. One of the most prominent obstacles hindering the child's learning process is on the rise: hunger. With more than 30 million Americans unemployed, people are being forced to choose between rent and groceries. Congress needs to act now to boost SNAP benefits so families can put enough food on the table for all who need it.

The problems of U.S. children are multiplied for the world's poorest children, who have been left out of previous COVID-19 aid packages. Global hunger and malnutrition could double as a result of the pandemic. Projections are that globally 80 million children could miss vaccinations, dramatically increasing under age 5 deaths from preventable diseases. In developing countries, which were already facing a learning crisis before the pandemic, 710 million children are cut off from schools.

Congress left D.C. for a long August recess telling millions of struggling and suffering children to wait. Where is their urgency? I call on Rep. Himes and Sens. Murphy and Blumenthal to break the stalemate in D.C. and pass an emergency response package that addresses the urgent needs of the poorest children, both here and around the world.

Nancy Gardiner

<https://www.newstimes.com/opinion/article/Letter-Break-the-stalemate-15556443.php>

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Congress needs to help people stay in their homes

Apr 10, 2020

Editor:

The economic fallout of COVID-19 is huge. Millions of low-wage workers have been laid off, making it virtually impossible to pay the rent or mortgage. This can quickly lead to eviction and homelessness.

I am grateful Congress has passed emergency legislation to help people experiencing housing instability and homelessness. However, the crisis is far from over and more action is needed. In the next coronavirus response bill, Congress must pass a national moratorium on evictions and foreclosures and provide substantial resources for emergency rental assistance.

We must also look ahead. Creating a refundable "renters' tax credit" to help low-income renters cover rising housing costs will give people the financial security to know that when the next crisis comes, we will be ready.

I urge our members of Congress to promptly pass measures to help struggling workers and families secure stable housing to get them through this crisis and beyond.

Patricia DeLuca

https://www.yoursun.com/charlotte/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter-congress-needs-to-help-people-stay-in-their-homes/article_6073e506-71e7-11ea-a52b-0f2f5b0583ee.html

The Miami Herald

Time to act is now on affordable housing

April 16, 2020

Since March 30, more than 16 million people have filed unemployment claims, triggered by the global pandemic that has brought the economy to a standstill. The cost of rent has increased disproportionately to that of income, creating a vulnerability to eviction and homelessness.

The Miami Herald's analysis of 2018 U.S. census data concluded that South Floridians were cost burdened. "[P]rior to the spread of COVID-19, they lived in households paying 50 percent or more of their pre-tax income on rent – those the federal government calls "severely cost burdened. Thousands more will be affected because of the severe economic blow caused by COVID-19.

We appreciate Sen. Marco Rubio's Home Advantage for American Families Act; however, he must be stronger in his request to implement a moratorium on evictions, continued support for Section 8 housing and a dialogue on renters' tax credits.

We thank U.S. House representatives Mario Diaz-Balart, Debbie Mucarsel-Powell and Donna Shalala, who, working together, have passed the initial phases of emergency relief legislation on housing.

In phase 4 of the response bill, Congress must pass a national moratorium on evictions and foreclosures, provide substantial resources for emergency rental assistance and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), to ensure that children do not have to suffer from food insecurity. Congress should act now.

Addressing tax policies such as the Earned Income Tax Credit, Childcare Tax Credit, and creating a refundable renters' tax credit will create stability for about 90 million American families. We urge our members of Congress to promptly pass the measures.

Karyne Bury, Betsy Suero Skipp, RESULTS Miami Group

<https://www.pressreader.com/usa/miami-herald/20200416/281642487303323>

Congress must act now to help housing needs during COVID-19

April 12, 2020

We appreciate the initiative of Sen. Marco Rubio's Home Advantage for American Families act. However, he must be stronger in his request to implement a solid stance on moratorium on evictions, continued support for Section 8 housing and a dialog on renter's tax credits.

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<https://www.sun-sentinel.com/opinion/letters/fl-op-letters-tuesday-fauci-trump-desantis-cuomo-coronavirus-20200421-kkctn4gtmfbopnjbz7vronqyy-story.html>

Tampa Bay Times

Rental assistance needed

May 9, 2020

A home is the best way to keep people healthy from COVID-19. But the safety of having a home is under threat for millions of Americans.

COVID-19 has created levels of unemployment not seen in the U.S. in decades. When people cannot work, they cannot pay the rent. Even with some getting unemployment insurance, millions are still falling behind, putting low-income renters under the threat of eviction and homelessness. Emergency rental assistance and stopping evictions will help renters stay housed and safe until this crisis passes.

Homelessness and eviction do not have to be the legacies of COVID-19. I urge our members of Congress to quickly pass legislation that includes at least \$100 billion for emergency rental assistance and a national moratorium on evictions.

Didier Bizimungu

<https://www.tampabay.com/opinion/2020/05/19/im-72-and-i-just-want-to-go-to-the-library-letters/>

Tampa Bay Times

Renters need help

July 19, 2020

Thank you for your coverage about poverty and race on Sunday. An unacceptable number of renters have low confidence in their ability to pay for their next month's rent. And eviction bans may expire soon, forcing them out of their homes during a pandemic.

The U.S. House has passed several bills that would enact a national moratorium on evictions and provide \$100 billion to help low-income renters pay the rent. This will alleviate a major stress on renters and help their landlords get paid until the economy improves. It is past time for the Senate to do the same.

Linda Schatz

<https://www.pressreader.com/usa/tampa-bay-times/20200719/282806423620108>

The coming rent disaster

August 27, 2020

As the pandemic moves us through different phases of recovery, we can't lose sight of others. I have a roof over my head and a plan to keep it that way. That's not so for some 30 million low-income renters at risk of eviction or going homeless, according to the Aspen Institute. Once again, this represents a pandemic risk that disproportionately affects people of color.

Eviction moratoriums remain on constant edge of expiration and do nothing to pay rent in arrears. Ron Hurtibise's July 31, 2020 article, "Families could be headed for disaster over unpaid rent during COVID-19," said it best. That was a month ago. The peril is still pending.

Waiting to take action during the pandemic has not seemed wise. We need movement. We need bipartisan action in Congress to address emergency rental assistance and a national moratorium on evictions. Millions of Americans need a plan now.

Carla Barrow

<https://www.sun-sentinel.com/opinion/letters/fl-op-letters-rental-assistance-biden-endorsement-post-office-20200827-jitkdpypne15lkv4mgmfm2lde-story.html>



Atlanta. News. Now.

Fighting COVID-19 must be done on a global scale

May 20, 2020

The HEROES Act, the most recent COVID-19 response, passed the House Friday. It has some crucial wins and some gaping holes. It provides \$100 billion in rental assistance, a moratorium on evictions and an increase in SNAP benefits.

However, it has almost no support for low-income countries to address COVID-19 and its fallout. In dozens of countries, kids are already missing out on life-saving vaccines, it's harder to access treatment for tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS, and food insecurity and starvation are rising.

We must practice solidarity with the vulnerable in this emergency, both here and globally.

Global challenges like COVID-19 aren't solved in isolation: they're solved in partnership. Whether it's COVID-19 or other ongoing emergencies, we need a strong response from Congress, both here and worldwide. I'm counting on Senators Perdue and Loeffler to make sure our country does its part in a global response to this global pandemic.

Misty Novich

<https://pages.pagesuite.com/6/7/678c226c-cf25-4457-b1a4-a02ece7f6a70/page.pdf>

We must be forgiving on rent during pandemic

June 2, 2020

COVID-19 waits for no one. How many people will not be able to pay their rent next month? And how many landlords will not be able to pay their mortgages? So many are struggling. Nearly 15% of Americans are currently unemployed and that figure is expected to grow to 25%.

The CARES Act passed by Congress provided relief for people who are homeless and those who live in properties backed by federal loans. However, this support applies to only 1 in 4 renters. We were already in an affordable housing crisis, and the pandemic has blown the roof off that completely. Over 70% of extremely low-income households pay more than half their income for housing, and this burden falls most heavily on families of color.

Emergency rental assistance paired with a national moratorium on evictions would allow families to stay safely housed and landlords to continue receiving rent until the pandemic passes. It's a win-win solution to a horrible problem that impacts everyone. The House recently passed the HEROES Act, which includes \$100 billion for emergency rental assistance and a one-year national moratorium on evictions. Sen. Chuck Grassley and Sen. Joni Ernst should work with their colleagues to do the same.

Peggy Fitch

<https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/readers/2020/06/02/letters-iowa-nice-reinforces-tyranny/5279950002/>

Des Moines Register

Americans need Congress to pass relief

September 15, 2020

What is the Senate waiting for? The first of the month has come and gone yet again. Still no action from the Senate. How many renters were evicted? How many landlords are overdue on their mortgages or in foreclosure? Why did senators let the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention do the Senate's job? The CDC eviction moratorium could help renters now, if they fill out the declaration form. But it just kicks the can down the road. Without dollars for emergency assistance, the rent continues to pile up, and landlords are left out entirely.

The House passed another coronavirus relief bill in May that included a national moratorium on eviction plus \$100 billion in emergency rental assistance. Both money and the moratorium are essential to keep renters safe under a roof during the pandemic and landlords in business. Sen. Joni Ernst and Sen. Chuck Grassley, what are you waiting for? House Democrats offered to trim \$1.2 trillion from their original bill, meaning a \$2.2 trillion package.

Yet last week Mitch McConnell offered a measly \$300 billion. Don't give up now on the people of Iowa and the nation during this crisis. Get to work with your colleagues in the Senate and the House to pass a COVID-19 relief bill before November.

Petty Fitch

<https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/readers/2020/09/15/letters-examine-all-risks-school-methods/3460484001/>



Homelessness

April 30, 2020

COVID-19 has created unprecedented levels of unemployment in the U.S. When people cannot work, how are they to pay the rent? Or buy food? Even with unemployment insurance, millions of Americans are falling behind.

With unpaid rent piling up, renters face the looming threat of eviction and homelessness. And children no longer in school are not only missing lessons, they are also missing meals that for many was their only source of food during the day. We can and must help.

I urge our members of Congress quickly pass legislation that includes at least \$100 billion for emergency rental assistance, a national moratorium on evictions, and a 15 percent increase in the maximum SNAP benefit (formerly Food Stamps).

Homelessness and hunger do not have to be the legacy of COVID-19. If we act now, they won't be.

Jessica Specht

https://www.idahopress.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letters-to-the-editor-april-30-2020/article_fc773ecf-15b8-5731-90d3-10fb4309d119.html



Wait and see

May 27, 2020

Will homelessness and eviction be the legacies of COVID-19? If Congress does not act soon, they will be.

Millions of Americans have lost their jobs because of the virus. When people cannot work, they cannot pay the rent. Even with some getting unemployment insurance, millions are still falling behind, putting low-income renters under the threat of losing their homes.

Some in Congress want to take a “wait and see” attitude with the economy, but when the country is in crisis, patience is a luxury only a privileged few can afford to have. I urge our members of Congress to push for quick passage of a COVID-19 bill that includes at least \$100 billion for emergency rental assistance and a national moratorium on evictions.

If we act now to help our fellow Americans keep their homes, our leadership and compassion will be the true legacies of COVID-19.

Jessica Specht

https://www.idahopress.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letters-to-the-editor-may-27-2020/article_2109a5b7-64ce-5a48-8560-6dbe84bbf825.html

Idaho Statesman

Rental Assistance

July 30, 2020

Recently there was an article in the Statesman that featured stories on how challenging it has been for some Idahoans to receive their unemployment checks. These are people who have worked hard and have done all the right things but because of the circumstances that the COVID virus has put them in, they are struggling to make ends meet. I am sure there are countless people in a similar situation.

According to the United Way Needs Assessment Survey, in the Treasure Valley housing and transportation costs often add up to more than 50% of household income. The housing cost is often much higher for renters than for owners. With so many people out of work, calls to Jesse Tree continue to soar. Eviction bans expiring so there is likely to be an increase in calls for support.

That is why it is so important for Senators Risch and Crapo to support the inclusion of \$100 billion in emergency rental assistance to help tenants and landlords as well as a national moratorium on evictions in the next COVID-19 response package.

Kris Paulson

<https://www.idahostatesman.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article244608377.html>

Idaho Statesman

Evictions

August 19, 2020

Millions of low-income renters face the threat of eviction and homelessness unless Congress acts soon.

COVID-19 has cost more 40 million Americans their jobs. When people cannot work, they cannot pay the rent. As local eviction bans expire this summer, low-income renters will owe thousands of dollars in back rent. Without help, these renters will be forced out of their homes in the middle of pandemic.

The House has passed several bills that would enact a national moratorium on evictions and provide \$100 billion to help low-income renters pay the rent. This will help millions of renters stay housed, and their landlords get paid, until the economy improves. It is time for the Senate to do the same.

Congress must act now to prevent millions from being evicted. I urge our members of Congress to push for quick passage of a COVID-19 bill that includes at least \$100 billion for emergency rental assistance and a national moratorium on evictions.

Jessica Specht

<https://www.idahostatesman.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article245091800.html>



Homelessness

September 8, 2020

Homelessness is a major risk factor for human trafficking. Keeping people housed, in safe and affordable housing is one of the most effective ways to fight it. The Polaris Project reports that 1 in 5 renters, or approximately 20 million renters, are at risk of losing their homes by the end of September. When this happens traffickers will be waiting. Our nation's vulnerable adults, including the elderly and disabled, must be protected. Keeping people housed is the best way to keep them safe and from contracting the coronavirus.

Which is also the best move economically. According to reports from Jesse Tree it costs the community over \$53,000 in supportive, health and emergency services per person who is homeless. It costs \$5-10,000 for a family to find new housing after they've been evicted. It costs less than \$900 to keep a family in their housing and less than \$350 per person.

Put simply, waiting isn't going to make this problem go away or make it easier to deal with financially. We need to act now unless we want Americans to become just another statistic, lost to the casualties of the coronavirus. Congress must pass emergency legislation that includes \$100 billion in rental assistance and pass a national moratorium on evictions. Sens. Crapo and Risch, how long are you willing to wait to pass legislation?

Jessica Specht

https://www.idahopress.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letters-to-the-editor-september-6-2020/article_5194c12e-41ce-5774-8d7c-bc07337b7e2b.html



COVID-19 can make homelessness worse

April 1, 2020

To the Editor:

While all of us struggle to follow social distancing and food hoarding, for several across our country and across Illinois and Missouri, none of these measures are remotely feasible, the unhoused community.

For millions more that are surviving at the brink of homelessness this pandemic may be forcing them to continue to work. Eleven million American families currently pay over 50% of their income for rent and are living on the financial edge and are only one event away from homelessness, be it the loss of a job or the burden of a medical bill. COVID-19 can make our homelessness crisis worse and we must act now.

I urge our members of Congress to support Emergency Solutions Grants to address the housing and health needs of people experiencing homelessness, along with a national moratorium on evictions and substantial resources for emergency rental assistance.

Sri Jaladi

https://thesouthern.com/opinion/letters/voice-of-the-reader-covid-19-can-make-homelessness-worse/article_d65abbb8-f31e-5393-aafa-16078d328b77.html



Message to our lawmakers

April 1, 2020

I agree with Margie Freovigel, "We Need You" in the March 27 Mailbag. The Times not only delivers news that brings our community together but is also an avenue for citizens to express their views and voices, which is essential for the survival of our democracy. Many times, through our local newspapers, we convey our messages to our lawmakers and the public.

Today I have one such message for our members of Congress. I am grateful for your leadership in passing emergency legislation to help people experiencing housing instability and homelessness during this pandemic. However, the crisis is far from over and we need to be proactive. In the next coronavirus response bill, Congress must pass a national moratorium on evictions and foreclosures and provide substantial resources for emergency rental assistance, to help millions of low wage workers who have been laid off and those at risk of being laid off.

Sri Jaladi

https://www.timesnewspapers.com/webster-kirkwoodtimes/message-to-our-lawmakers/article_e683d85c-742d-11ea-a7cc-2f15c3d73815.html



Your view

April 15, 2020

Dear Editor,

The economic fallout of COVID-19 is huge. Millions of low-wage workers have been laid off, making it virtually impossible to pay the rent or mortgage. This can quickly lead to eviction and homelessness.

I am grateful Congress has passed emergency legislation to help people experiencing housing instability and homelessness. However, the crisis is far from over and more action is needed. In the next coronavirus response bill, Congress must pass a national moratorium on evictions and foreclosures and provide substantial resources for emergency rental assistance.

We must also look ahead. Creating a refundable “renters’ tax credit” to help low-income renters cover rising housing costs will give people the financial security to know that when the next crisis comes, we will be ready.

I urge our members of Congress to promptly pass measures to help struggling workers and families secure stable housing to get them through this crisis and beyond.

Sincerely,

Greg Campbell

[https://www.thetelegraph.com/opinion/article/Your-View-15202653.php?utm_campaign=CMS%20Sharing%20Tools%20\(Desktop\)&utm_source=share-by-email&utm_medium=email](https://www.thetelegraph.com/opinion/article/Your-View-15202653.php?utm_campaign=CMS%20Sharing%20Tools%20(Desktop)&utm_source=share-by-email&utm_medium=email)



Reader Encourages Congress to Enact COVID-19 Bill

August 11, 2020

Dear Editor,

Millions of low-income renters are under threat of eviction and homelessness. COVID-19 has cost more 40 million Americans their jobs. When people cannot work, they cannot pay the rent. Local and national eviction bans are expiring, putting over 20 million low-income renters at risk of losing their homes in the middle of pandemic.

The House has passed legislation that would provide \$100 billion in emergency rental assistance and enact a national moratorium on evictions. This will help renters stay housed and landlords get paid until the economy improves. But Senate leaders and the White House are standing in the way.

It's time for Congress and the White House officials to stand up and do the job they were elected to do - protect the American people. I urge them quickly enact COVID-19 bill that includes emergency rental assistance and a national moratorium on evictions.

Sincerely,

David Plasterer

<https://thetimes24-7.com/Content/Opinion-Page/Letters-to-the-Editor/Article/Letter-to-the-Editor-Reader-urges-Congress-to-enact-COVID-19-bill/12/40/66519>



Reader Wants Action Now to Protect Renters

August 25, 2020

Dear Editor,

Millions of low-income renters are under threat of eviction and homelessness. COVID-19 has cost millions of Americans their jobs. When people cannot work, they cannot pay the rent. The Aspen Institute estimates that without action from Congress, over 30 million low-income renters at risk of losing their homes.

There appears to be some bipartisan support in Congress to provide emergency rental assistance and enact a national moratorium on evictions. This will help renters stay housed and landlords get paid. But the White House is stalling. And President Trump's executive action on evictions is just smoke - it doesn't stop evictions nor provide any new funds to help people pay rent.

It's time for congress and President Trump to resume negotiations now and enact a COVID-19 deal that includes \$100 billion in emergency rental assistance and a national moratorium on evictions.

David Plasterer

<https://thetimes24-7.com/Content/Default/Letters-to-the-Editor-Home/Article/Letter-to-the-Editor-Reader-was-action-now-to-protect-renters/-3/595/66637>



CDC's effort to halt evictions isn't enough for struggling tenants and landlords

September 10, 2020

IndyStar on Sep. 3, 2020, [ran a story](#) headlined "Another effect of the coronavirus pandemic: More trash at home — tons of it," noting that Marion County's residential trash volume in March was 18 percent higher than during the same period last year.

Millions of low-income renters are struggling to make ends meet. Millions have lost their jobs or income, and when people cannot work, they cannot pay the rent.

While it is great that the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is declaring a halt to evictions for the rest of the year, emergency rental assistance is still needed for both renters and small landlords.

[Economist Mark Zandi](#), as cited in a Washington Post article, said that tenants owe nearly \$25 billion in back rent, which could reach \$69.8 billion by the end of the year.

We see trash volume has risen since the beginning of the pandemic back in March. Imagine that number for families who face eviction and will be forced on the streets. The city will be in for a new crisis. Will we be ready?

There appears to be some bipartisan support in Congress to provide emergency rental assistance. This will help renters avoid an eviction "cliff" later this year, and for small landlords who still face bills. But the White House is stalling. We must remind policymakers that families cannot wait - we need another relief package NOW and for emergency rental assistance to be a priority.

It's time for Congress and President Donald Trump to resume negotiations now and enact a robust COVID-19 deal that includes \$100 billion in emergency rental assistance.

Maxine Thomas

<https://www.indystar.com/story/opinion/readers/2020/09/10/letters-cdcs-effort-halt-evictions-isnt-enough-struggling-tenants-and-landlords/5745048002/>



Help the needy

April 7, 2020

As Kansans who believe the fight to end poverty is important, we believe that Congress must ensure that any future emergency spending package includes resources to help people experiencing housing and food insecurity. We are extremely grateful that Congress has passed emergency legislation to help people experiencing some form of instability during this pandemic. However, the pandemic is far from over, and more action is needed.

In the next coronavirus response bill, we would like to see Congress prioritize emergency assistance for renters and those at risk of eviction, plus more funding for SNAP.

Kansas has set a great example for other states and the whole country by implementing a moratorium on eviction and foreclosures. We urge Congress to enact a national moratorium to help renters and homeowners remain stable during and after the coronavirus outbreak.

There needs to be a boost in funding for SNAP as well. Resources have been scarce during this pandemic; SNAP has become more vital during these times. People experiencing poverty find it harder to gain access to necessary resources to survive. There is already a lack of funding for SNAP and if there is a future CARES Act, Congress needs to provide better access to basic necessities.

We are thankful that Congress has taken action, and we hope to see Kansas members of Congress emphasize the need for more assistance for housing and food. We hope to see Kansas continue to be leaders of the nation by initiating steps to save lives.

Mercedeh Tavacoli & Matt Mohan

<https://www2.ljworld.com/opinion/2020/apr/07/letter-to-the-editor-help-the-needy/>



Letter to the editor

April 8, 2020

I work in a health care field, and I've been serving people from Stilwell, Louisburg, Overland Park, Paola, Bucyrus and more. I've heard too many people worry about spending money on food and their prescriptions. One person is too many.

As a Kansan who believes the fight to end poverty is crucial, I believe that Congress must ensure that any future emergency spending package includes resources to help people experiencing housing and food insecurity. I'm grateful that Congress passed emergency legislation. However, we haven't hit peak yet, and more action will be needed. Kansas set an example for the whole country by implementing a moratorium on eviction and foreclosures. Our senators and representatives can recommend Congress to enact a national moratorium to help renters and homeowners remain stable during and after the pandemic. It would help people avoid homelessness.

SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) needs a boost in funding. Resources are scarce during this pandemic, so SNAP is more vital during these times. Many children aren't receiving meals from school anymore and are relying on their families to provide, which is difficult for many families in our communities. If there is a future CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act), Congress needs to provide more funding.

I hope to see KS senators and representatives emphasize the need for more assistance for housing and food resources and continue to be leaders of the nation by initiating steps to save lives. These steps would help Kansans and all individuals living through this pandemic in the U.S.

Mercedeh Tavacoli

https://www.republic-online.com/opinion/letters/letter-to-the-editor---mercedeh-tavacoli/article_7c34329e-76ad-11ea-921f-eb214cbc5574.html

Renter's tax credit would help

April 13, 2020

Millions of American families are in crisis — they cannot afford the cost of rent. Since 1960, renters' median earnings have gone up 5 percent while rents have risen by 61 percent. However, because of inadequate funding, only 1 in 4 eligible households can get rental housing assistance.

Sadly, President Trump's 2021 budget proposal would make things far worse by cutting housing assistance for 166,000 families. Instead of cuts, we need to invest more to help families find a home. A "renter's tax credit" would help by providing households a refundable tax credit for rental costs above 30 percent of their household income up to the local fair market rent.

Stable housing makes our lives and our communities better. It improves job performance and keeps our children happy, healthy and safe. I call on our members of Congress to take big step in solving America's housing crisis by supporting a renters' credit for low- and moderate-income families.

Lila Bartel

<https://www.cjonline.com/opinion/20200313/letter-to-editor-rentersquos-tax-credit-would-help>

Next package should help with food, housing

April 17, 2020

As Kansans who believe the fight to end poverty is important, we believe that Congress must ensure that any future emergency spending package includes resources to help people experiencing housing and food insecurity. We are extremely grateful that Congress has passed emergency legislation to help people experiencing some form of instability during this pandemic. However, the pandemic is far from over and more action is needed.

In the next Coronavirus response bill, we would like to see Congress prioritize emergency assistance for renters and those at risk of eviction, and more funding for SNAP. Kansas has set a great example for other states and the whole country by implementing a moratorium on eviction and foreclosures. We urge Congress to enact a national moratorium to help renters and homeowners remain stable during and after the Coronavirus outbreak.

There needs to be a boost in funding for SNAP as well. Resources have been scarce during this pandemic; SNAP has become more vital during these times. People experiencing poverty find it harder to gain access to necessary resources to survive. There is already a lack of funding for SNAP and if there is a future CARES Act, Congress needs to provide better access to basic necessities.

We are thankful that Congress has taken action, and we hope to see Kansas members of Congress emphasize the need for more assistance for housing and food resources. We hope to see Kansas continue to be leaders of the nation by the initiating steps to save lives.

Matthew Mohan and Mercedeh Tavacoli

<https://www.cjonline.com/opinion/20200417/letter-to-editor-next-package-should-help-with-food-housing>



Student, local advocacy groups push for 'rent holiday' in Manhattan

April 22, 2020

A large number of students live off-campus in Manhattan. With the pandemic, a lot of K-State students have returned to their hometowns but are still paying rent to their off-campus housing providers.

Pranav Savanur, junior in biology, along with some local advocacy groups, is pushing for a "rent holiday" in Manhattan for people who find themselves in financial trouble during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A rent holiday, or a temporary rent freeze, would help unemployed or cost-burdened residents maintain their safe housing, even if they can't pay their rent, Savanur said.

As a self-described advocate for people in need, Savanur said he wants officials and commissioners to see things from the perspective of Manhattan residents who are struggling financially.

With an unprecedented unemployment rate, he said, tenants are unable to pay for housing.

"As a pre-med student, I understand that most of the time pandemics are not just because of genetics and outbreak, but also about the political and structural will," Savanur said. "Oppression and segregation are highlighted the most during a pandemic and we can clearly see that the ability to live in safe and affordable housing is a privilege and how this [lack of] privilege is unfairly affecting the poor."

Without proper housing, he said, residents cannot safely quarantine or practice social distancing, which could cause the virus to spread more.

Gov. Laura Kelly [signed](#) an executive order restricting foreclosures and evictions throughout the state until May, but Savanur and local advocacy groups like Renters Together MHK and the Manhattan Alliance for Peace and Justice are pushing for a local extension.

"I believe that in order to rise from the current pandemic situation, we need to put people's lives first and fight together against the outbreak with solidarity and compassion," Savanur said. "The best way to do this is by supporting a rent holiday."

While Savanur is pushing for a rent freeze for all Manhattan residents who are struggling, he is especially passionate about speaking up for his fellow Kansas State students.

"A lot of full-time undergraduate students are still paying rent in Manhattan, but do not even live here because they are following the guidelines given by the university to stay at home and take classes online, and many students are becoming more and more cost-burdened during this time," Savanur said. "By supporting a rent holiday, K-State could help boost the student retention rate, and in order to help students stay in school and achieve the land grant mission of our university, it is timely and imperative to support this."

Like residents, local property management companies have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Craig Lauppe, president of Advanced Property Management, said all company operations have shifted to online platforms.

The company is working to ensure the safety of residents, staff and customers, he said.

"Our operations have completely changed," Lauppe said. "One stance that we've taken as a company is that we need to find a different way to do business in order to come out of this differently. Everything from a leasing perspective, a maintenance perspective and a management perspective have gone through a complete change and we've really challenged ourselves to actively work virtually."

Lauppe said the proposal for a rent holiday is complicated. From the perspective of property management companies, it could cause a supply

chain effect and long-lasting financial problems on the community and companies.

“A rent freeze would exponentially hurt the community as a whole,” Lauppe said. “A lot of service-based companies, such as property management or maintenance companies, rely on the funds from rent proceeds to help upkeep homes, service the homes, rent the homes and things along those lines.”

Lauppe said that he looks at the supply chain perspective in regards solely to numbers and logistics, but that Advanced Property Management is looking at things from a more personal standpoint.

He said they are open to working with property owners and residents to find solutions such as rent extensions, or an agreement to pay rent once they have steady income.

“From a personal perspective, our company understands that residents are being hit and enduring a hard time right now,” Lauppe said. “We understand that if they have a concern, we’re opening ourselves up and sending out emails ahead of time before rent is due and asking that if anyone is having a tough time that they come to us.”

Although Advanced Property Management and other companies in Manhattan are trying to work with their residents during this time, Lauppe said that they still have to abide by and operate on legal agreements.

“The key is that we’re trying to take the personal approach more so as a company because we want to be there to support everyone,” Lauppe said. “But at the end of the day there are still legal agreements that have to be fulfilled, even if it takes a longer time to do so.”

Emma Snyder

<https://www.kstatecollegian.com/2020/04/22/student-local-advocacy-groups-push-for-rent-holiday-in-manhattan/?fbclid=IwAR0NwCmDAy3v67QtrsTjKVsYev1EOuwjWzMY-UwvmwJlcwIca3ch-AACcP0>

Leaders must help most vulnerable

April 23, 2020

COVID-19 is having a huge economic impact. Looking at the statistics on number of unemployment applications, it is apparent many won't be able to pay the rent or put food on the table. Some may face eviction or even homelessness.

While it is helpful that Congress passed emergency legislation to help people in crisis, more action is needed. In the next coronavirus response bill, Congress must provide at least \$100 billion for emergency rental assistance, pass a national moratorium on evictions, and increase the maximum SNAP benefit by 15 percent.

According to Harvard researchers, since 1960, renters' median earnings have gone up 5% while cost of rent went up 61%. It is apparent Congress should also create a refundable "renters' tax credit" to help low-income Americans pay the rent.

I urge Sens. Moran and Roberts and Rep. Watkins to commit to addressing these needs and to help Congress promptly pass measures to help struggling workers and families secure stable housing and keep their families fed during this economic crisis and beyond.

Gwen Elliott

<https://www.cjonline.com/opinion/20200423/letter-to-editor-leaders-must-help-most-vulnerable>

Letter to the editor: Prioritize help for hunger, housing

May 2, 2020

The economic impact of COVID-19 has been astronomical. Millions of low-wage workers are out of work, can't pay the rent, utility bills or put food on the table. Without help, many Americans could quickly face hunger, eviction, and even homelessness.

We are thankful Congress has passed emergency legislation, but more action is still needed. In the next response bill, Congress must prioritize housing and hunger by providing no less than \$100 billion for emergency rental assistance, implementing a national moratorium on evictions, and increasing the maximum SNAP (formerly Food Stamps) benefit by 15%.

As students at the University of Kansas, we have seen perspectives of many of our peers struggling to pay for necessities, which includes rent, food and utilities. According to a 2016 study, 54% of KU students identified as "Food Insecure." Many of these food-insecure students are being heavily impacted because many can't receive the stimulus check or apply for unemployment during this time.

We urge Sens. Roberts and Moran, and Reps. Marshall, Estes, Watkins and Davids to promptly consider and pass measures to help struggling workers and families secure stable housing and keep their families fed during this economic crisis and beyond.

Taelyr Blehm and Mercedeh Tavacoli

<https://www.cjonline.com/opinion/20200502/letter-to-editor-prioritize-help-for-hunger-housing>



Letter to the editor:

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Taelyr Blehm and Mercedeh Tavacoli

<https://www.butlercountytimesgazette.com/opinion/20200502/letter-to-editor>

THE MORNING SUN

Covering Pittsburg and southeast Kansas since 1887

Letter to the editor:

May 2, 2020

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Taelyr Blehm and Mercedeh Tavacoli

<https://www.morningsun.net/opinion/20200502/letter-to-editor>

THE KANSAN

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Taelyr Blehm and Mercedeh Tavacoli

<https://www.thekansan.com/opinion/20200502/letter-to-editor>



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May 2, 2020

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We urge Sens. Roberts and Moran, and Reps. Marshall, Estes, Watkins and Davids to promptly consider and pass measures to help struggling workers and families secure stable housing and keep their families fed during this economic crisis and beyond.

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<https://www.ottawaherald.com/opinion/20200502/letter-to-editor>

LEAVENWORTH TIMES

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PrattTribune

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<https://www.pratttribune.com/article/20200509/OPINION/200509164>

THE MERCURY

Grateful for Roberts' coronavirus relief work

May 12, 2020

Kansans appreciate Sen. Pat Roberts' work on coronavirus relief funding, specifically for community health and small businesses. Apart from this, he is actively connecting to his constituents. Recently, we had the opportunity to have a virtual meeting with his office and heard about his leadership in introducing bipartisan legislation called the FORWARD Act to expand support for U.S. companies that invest in development of vaccines and technologies. We as K-State seniors are grateful for this robust funding as we prepare for our transition into the workforce.

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https://themercury.com/opinion/letters-for-may-12-2020/article_255b7d89-dddf-5c3c-8c9b-1cb20340265e.html



Students advocate for international poverty relief for RESULTS

May 21, 2020

Students advocate for international The COVID-19 pandemic shows how connected United States citizens are and how dependent they are on one another. Some Kansas State students knew this long before the pandemic disrupted daily life, which led them to join RESULTS, a bipartisan advocacy group.

Pranav Savanur, junior in biology and president of the Manhattan chapter of RESULTS, became interested in helping people while taking Michael Wesch's cultural anthropology course in the fall of 2018. Savanur said he learned about Paul Farmer and his work in medicine and human rights advocacy and it set Savanur on a path to help others.

Savanur said he always knew he would help people by being a doctor, but this opened new pathways for him. He learned about global health issues and the impact he could make on the world.

While studying abroad in Liverpool, England, Savanur learned about the opportunities offered by [RESULTS](#).

"I applied to it and everything, then attended the conference and met fellow K-State students and other students from across Kansas," Savanur said.

Savanur became a Real Change Fellow and attended the RESULTS conference last summer. This summer, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual conference will be online, and an in-person event is planned for February 2021.

RESULTS teaches their advocates to communicate with politicians and create a dialogue around issues related to poverty.

Melissa Bryan, junior in biology, learned about RESULTS through her sorority as a freshman.

“They were able to share their story, and I was in awe at the work they were doing,” Bryan said via email. “I felt they brought to light many issues that are very important to all of us, but we do not think about on a daily basis. In an effort to show our representatives that we valued these initiatives, RESULTS led our entire sorority in writing letters to Congress advocating for the Reach Every Mother and Child Act.”

After that, Bryan trained to become a RESULTS volunteer.

“Earlier this year, I met Pranav as we were both TAs for Intro to Cultural Anthropology,” Bryan said. “After some long chats about what we were passionate [about], he had shared with me that he was a RESULTS fellow and I have been working with him since.”

Together, Bryan and Savanur are working to create a RESULTS Manhattan and K-State chapter. Currently, RESULTS is not a registered student organization.

“We have more impact as a non-registered Manhattan chapter than a registered K-State chapter,” Savanur said. “We have more leverage of bringing in people who are not part of the K-State community.”

Savanur said the plan is to register as an independent student organization once they have more members.

Although they don’t have many Manhattan or K-State members, the local RESULTS team continues to advocate for policies that end poverty. Savanur and Bryan are passionate about access to housing and health care and how these can help end the poverty cycle.

“I mainly focus on the global side of issues because of my exposure towards my experiences in India and my work experience in the U.K. and Africa,” Savanur said. “So, I mainly focus on that, but as the president of RESULTS Manhattan, I also educate people on the domestic part of it.”

Savanur has talked to Sen. Pat Roberts about SNAP benefits and other ways of helping low-income families during the pandemic.

“We really want to show constant support towards building SNAP because it will not only help low income houses fund [putting] food on the table — it will also help your economy which is very important right now,” Savanur said. “People in low income families literally spend most of their income for meeting basic needs.”

To promote global health, Bryan advocates for [Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance](#).

“I feel it is our duty to highlight that these issues matter to constituents,” Bryan said.

Bryan and Savanur both said the COVID-19 pandemic highlights the need for extended SNAP benefits and a renters’ holiday.

“Food and shelter are crucial during this crisis and we want to make sure no one has been left behind when delegating aid,” Bryan said. “I feel these issues are quite relevant to K-Staters.”

Savanur said the pandemic also shows how public health and politics are closely related. He cites Rep. Roger Marshall, a doctor and politician currently running for U.S. Senate.

“That’s also a great example of seeing how healthcare and policymaking in politics cannot be separated,” Savanur said.

Bailey Britton

<https://www.kstatecollegian.com/2020/05/21/students-advocate-for-international-poverty-relief-with-results/?fbclid=IwAR0aTeKgB90NmQvR-ArfEch80wCNTv-1pW1GWirEM-AyJJUnV1M1WTYnke4>

We must stop evictions during crisis

June 3, 2020

A home is the best way to keep people healthy from COVID-19. But the safety of having a home is under threat for millions of Americans. When people cannot work, they cannot pay their rent and that is why Congress must enact a national moratorium on evictions until the crisis passes.

In doing so, Congress must allocate at least \$100 billion in federal money for emergency rental assistance. This will help the millions of Americans who are a paycheck away from losing their homes. Additionally, a renters' credit would help low-income renters find stable housing in good times and bad. The refundable "renters' tax credit" for low-income renters would also help millions of low-income renters who are not earning enough to afford a place to live.

Lastly, Congress must enact a minimum of 15% increase on SNAP until the economic crisis passes. Due to the coronavirus downturn, the SNAP increase would help our local Kansas economy and help feed millions of hungry Americans.

Thank you to the senators for reading this recent coronavirus bill and understanding how necessary these issues are to Americans and especially Kansans. We would also like to thank the representatives in the House that passed the recent CARES Act. We urge Sens. Roberts and Moran to support the most recent CARES Act, which will include SNAP benefits, a Refundable "Renters' tax credit" for low-income renters and enact a moratorium on evictions until this crisis passes.

Matthew Mohan and Lila Bartel

<https://www.cjonline.com/opinion/20200603/letter-to-editor-we-must-stop-evictions-during-crisis>

LEAVENWORTH TIMES

COVID-19 deal should address rentals, SNAP

August 17, 2020

According to the editorial, “White House, Congress need to step up” published on Aug. 14, more than 110,00 Kansans and roughly 30 million Americans are unemployed.

With reduced unemployment benefits, Americans are struggling to put food on their table and keep a roof over their heads. Millions of low-income renters are under threat of eviction and homelessness. When people cannot work, they cannot pay rent or afford adequate nutrition. With more than 30 million Americans unemployed while food prices are rising, people are forced to choose between rent and groceries.

SNAP is our nation’s first line of defense against hunger. And it is built for crises just like this. Back in 2008, SNAP not only reduced food insecurity in the middle of a recession, it also helped the economy recover (every \$1 in new SNAP spending creates \$1.50-1.80 in economic activity). It can do so again.

There appears to be some bipartisan support in Congress to provide emergency rental assistance and enact a national moratorium on evictions. This will help renters stay housed, landlords get paid and keep food on the table. But the White House is stalling. And President Trump’s executive action on evictions is just smoke — it doesn’t stop evictions nor provide any new funds to help people pay rent.

It’s time for Congress and President Trump to resume negotiations now and enact a COVID-19 deal that includes \$100 billion in emergency rental assistance, a national moratorium on evictions and increase the maximum SNAP benefit by 15%.

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There appears to be some bipartisan support in Congress to provide emergency rental assistance and enact a national moratorium on evictions. This will help renters stay housed, landlords get paid and keep food on the table. But the White House is stalling. And President Trump’s executive action on evictions is just smoke — it doesn’t stop evictions nor provide any new funds to help people pay rent.

It’s time for Congress and President Trump to resume negotiations now and enact a COVID-19 deal that includes \$100 billion in emergency rental assistance, a national moratorium on evictions and increase the maximum SNAP benefit by 15%.

Pranav Savanur and Taelyr Blehm

<https://www.hdnews.net/opinion/20200817/letter-to-editor-covid-19-deal-should-address-rentals-snap>

COVID-19 deal should address rentals, SNAP

August 17, 2020

According to the editorial, “White House, Congress need to step up” published on Aug. 14, more than 110,00 Kansans and roughly 30 million Americans are unemployed.

With reduced unemployment benefits, Americans are struggling to put food on their table and keep a roof over their heads. Millions of low-income renters are under threat of eviction and homelessness. When people cannot work, they cannot pay rent or afford adequate nutrition. With more than 30 million Americans unemployed while food prices are rising, people are forced to choose between rent and groceries.

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It’s time for Congress and President Trump to resume negotiations now and enact a COVID-19 deal that includes \$100 billion in emergency rental assistance, a national moratorium on evictions and increase the maximum SNAP benefit by 15%.

Pranav Savanur and Taelyr Blehm

<https://www.morningsun.net/opinion/20200817/letter-to-editor-covid-19-deal-should-address-rentals-snap>



Congress, President should resume COVID-19 negotiations

August 18, 2020

Congress and President Trump must resume negotiations now to enact a COVID response bill. With more than 110,000 Kansans and roughly 30 million Americans unemployed, it is frustrating that Congress and the White House couldn't negotiate a COVID response bill.

With reduced unemployment benefits, Americans are struggling to put food on their tables and keep a roof over their heads. Millions of low-income renters are under threat of eviction and homelessness. When people cannot work, they cannot pay rent or afford adequate nutrition. With more than 30 million Americans unemployed while food prices are rising, people are forced to choose between rent and groceries.

SNAP is our nation's first line of defense against hunger. And it is built for crises just like this. Back in 2008, SNAP not only reduced food insecurity in the middle of a recession, it also helped the economy recover (every \$1 in new SNAP spending creates \$1.50-1.80 in economic activity). It can do so again.

There appears to be some bipartisan support in Congress to provide emergency rental assistance and enact a national moratorium on evictions. This will help renters stay housed, landlords get paid and keep food on the table. But the White House is stalling. And President Trump's executive action on evictions is just smoke – it doesn't stop evictions nor provide any new funds to help people pay rent.

It's time for Congress and President Trump to resume negotiations now and enact a COVID-19 deal that includes \$100 billion in emergency rental assistance, a national moratorium on evictions and increase the maximum SNAP benefit by 15%.

Taelyr Blehm

<https://www.gbtribune.com/opinion/congress-president-should-resume-covid-19-negotiations/>

It's time for Congress to act

September 3, 2020

There is no deal on the COVID-19 supplemental bill and no clear next steps. Our Congresspeople need to do the right thing: Provide emergency rental assistance, a national moratorium on evictions, an increase in SNAP benefits, research for world-wide health and continue unemployment benefits.

The president's powers are limited in these areas, as it takes Congress to make real these investments in our people and keep families sheltered and safe. Yet the negotiations stopped, and, in turn, President Trump signed executive orders on unemployment benefits of \$400/week (down from \$600/week), a payroll tax holiday, and he said he would consider an eviction moratorium and a deferment of student loan repayment. It is likely there will be legal challenges to his approach as it is far from adequate and not at all clear where the money will come from. Speculation is that it may come from Social Security.

The money in question belongs to the American people. (The fact that American dollars are still being spent on a wall between the US and Mexico seems absurd at this time.)

Finally, the time is NOW. We are obligated to keep the pressure on Congress and the White House to figure this out. Sens. Moran and Roberts, will you please represent us as caring Kansans who appreciate the hardships that have been created for this country and the rest of the world? We are counting on you to do the best right things. Now.

Lila M. Bartel

<https://www.cjonline.com/opinion/20200903/letter-to-editor-itsquos-time-for-congress-to-act>

The Herald News

Congress needs to approve more resources to avoid evictions, foreclosures

March 31, 2020

Creating a refundable “renters’ tax credit” to help low-income renters cover rising housing costs will give people the financial security to know that when the next crisis comes, we will be ready.

The economic fallout of COVID-19 is huge. Millions of low-wage workers have been laid off, making it virtually impossible to pay the rent or mortgage. This can quickly lead to eviction and homelessness.

I am grateful Congress has passed emergency legislation to help people experiencing housing instability and homelessness. However, the crisis is far from over and more action is needed. In the next coronavirus response bill, Congress must pass a national moratorium on evictions and foreclosures and provide substantial resources for emergency rental assistance.

We must also look ahead. Creating a refundable “renters’ tax credit” to help low-income renters cover rising housing costs will give people the financial security to know that when the next crisis comes, we will be ready.

I urge our members of Congress to promptly pass measures to help struggling workers and families secure stable housing to get them through this crisis and beyond.

Also, the risks we all face right now are only further magnified for people in poverty or people cut off from health services.

Strong, resilient health systems around the world become even more important - and even more endangered - in a crisis. Whether it’s coronavirus or other ongoing global health emergencies, like tuberculosis or

malnutrition, we need a strong global response which honors the needs and human rights of people in poverty.

We have great examples in multilateral partnerships like the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria as well as Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. We cannot leave those isolated by stigma, geography, or poverty on the sidelines.

Congress must prioritize global health systems, alongside the domestic response, as we move forward together. People who are disenfranchised must not bear the brunt of this pandemic. We must move forward in hope and solidarity.

Tina Michael

<https://www.heraldnews.com/opinion/20200331/letter-congress-needs-to-approve-more-resources-to-avoid-evictions-foreclosures>

The Berkshire Eagle

We need a bold COVID-19 relief package now

August 6, 2020

To the editor:

The new coronavirus bill in Washington seems to ignore that this is a global pandemic requiring a global response as well as a bold U.S. relief package. The House response, the HEROES Act, has no money for global relief. The Senate version that has been proposed by the Republican majority has \$3 billion for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and \$1 billion for vaccine administration, but neglects the many other international programs, such as The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; USAID; the WHO; and the World Food Program, to name just a few that need support on a much more robust scale.

It also fails to prevent low-income American renters from falling off the cliff and facing the imminent threat of eviction and homelessness. The House bill provides \$100 billion to help low-income renters pay rent. But we also need an eviction moratorium, something we in Massachusetts have seen extended into October.

This week, we are at a critical moment and must, as constituents, see that our legislators act to prevent a medical, humanitarian and economic crisis from continuing to unfold. I urge you to speak out now and ensure a bold and necessary COVID-19 relief package.

Leslye Heilig

<https://www.berkshireeagle.com/stories/letter-we-need-a-bold-covid-19-relief-package-now,610872>



Online grocery purchases a welcome reform, but increasing SNAP benefit would be even better

June 1, 2020

Thank you for highlighting the positive move Maryland has made to facilitate online grocery purchases for families receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits ([“Maryland approved for SNAP online grocery purchases.”](#) May 20). While this is a welcome move, being able to order groceries online doesn’t help at the end of the month when limited SNAP benefits have already run out.

My husband and I started our own weekly quarantine tradition in March: replacing our weekly date night at a restaurant with a more adventurous and challenging than usual home cooked meal. Each Thursday, we email each other recipe ideas. On Fridays, we carefully select all the ingredients we need, put on some music and starting chopping. My husband always snaps the final product for social media then we dig in. Every week, we do this now cherished ritual, it hits me. We are so fortunate that, for now, both of us are employed. We can afford a diverse diet with whatever small extravagances the recipes call for.

But we both have friends and colleagues who have been laid off or whose household incomes have been dealt body blows by the COVID-19 epidemic. Like so many other millions of people, their new rituals might be anxiously waiting for unemployment checks or waiting in line at a food bank.

That’s why we urge Congress to include a 15% increase in the SNAP maximum benefit in the next COVID-19 bill, increase the minimum SNAP benefit to \$30 and suspend all administrative rules that would terminate or cut SNAP benefits. These provisions must continue beyond the public health crisis until the economy improves.

Lior Miller

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/opinion/readers-respond/bs-ed-rr-groceries-snap-online-letter-20200601-ffcnicjdjzbixhh4bnow3msgyi-story.html>

No work. No house. No help.

July 26, 2020

No work. No house. No help. Almost 80,000 Michigan renters brace for eviction, as the governor's eviction moratorium expired on July 15. According to the U.S. Census, one in five adults in Michigan either missed their last housing payment or have little or no confidence in being able to make their next month's housing payment. Thousands of Michiganders face the threat of eviction and homelessness unless the senate acts soon. COVID-19 has cost more than 40 million Americans their jobs, and Michigan's unemployment rate was still 14.8% in June. When people cannot work, they cannot pay their rent.

As local eviction bans expire this summer, low-income renters will owe thousands of dollars in back rent. Without help, these renters will be forced out of their homes in the middle of pandemic. The house has passed several bills that would enact a national moratorium on evictions and provide \$100 billion to help low-income renters pay the rent. This would help millions of renters stay housed and help landlords get paid until the economy improves. It is time for the senate to do the same.

I urge Sen. Debbie Stabenow and Sen. Gary Peters to push for quick passage of an emergency COVID-19 relief bill that includes at least \$100 billion for emergency rental assistance and a national moratorium on evictions. I also encourage all members of congress to push to include this emergency rental assistance in the next final COVID-19 emergency relief bill if senate Republicans draft a bill without this much needed aid.

Yvonne Wyborny

https://freep-mi.newsmemory.com/?token=ffe7b03e3597f3b4898378c237bb775e&cnum=7371933&fod=111111STD-0&selDate=20200726&licenseType=paid_subscriber&



Speak up now for a better future

June 13, 2020

Great question about being better off now amidst the terrible pandemic and sad state of grieving with civil unrest over the death of George Floyd. A June 2 letter in the News Tribune asked, "[Is anyone better off now?](#)"

We can speak up and take action to ensure we have a better future, including voting in November.

Right now we can ask our senators to pass the recently passed House relief bill, which includes rent relief to avoid millions becoming homeless, increases funding to the SNAP program to address the skyrocketing problem of a lack of food, and supports state and local governments, the true leaders in this pandemic battle. Our calls, letters, and virtual visits to those we voted into Congress can ensure this bill passes.

Other bills in the House (HR 40) and the Senate (S 1083) also can help address America's civil problems with a commission to address the historical efforts at equity.

So, speak up now to build a brighter future.

Willie Dickerson

<https://www.duluthnewstribune.com/opinion/letters/6528665-Readers-View-Speak-up-now-for-a-better-future>



Rent relief, no evictions still needed

July 23, 2020

New worries about homelessness are common all over America, as millions of Americans have no idea how they will be able to pay their rent ("[Concern grows along with Duluth's homeless population](#)," July 15).

Rent relief and an eviction moratorium were part of the Heroes Act passed by the House, but the Senate has not taken action. We can help with our calls and letters to those who represent us, asking them to make sure rent relief and a moratorium on evictions are part of any future relief package. Our voices and votes are the best hope for our country.

Willie Dickerson

<https://www.duluthnewstribune.com/opinion/letters/6582923-Readers-View-Rent-relief-no-evictions-still-needed>



Urge Senate to pass the HEROES Act

September 13, 2020

In her column in the News Tribune on Sept. 5, Duluth Central Labor Body President Beth McCuskey was right about the efficacy of and need for the HEROES Act in these times of multiple crises brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. (Labor Leader's View: ["This Labor Day, workers need relief, our support"](#)).

The U.S. House passed the HEROES Act three months ago. The Senate offered a watered-down version but refused to compromise when Speaker Nancy Pelosi offered to meet halfway. Now? Our calls, tweets, emails, and virtual visits are needed to demand action from those who represent us in Congress — especially Sen. Mitch McConnell, since he is the one who decides what the Senate does.

Let's honor Labor Day and the workers of America by reaching out to our elected officials on a daily basis until this relief is passed, reminding them we will be voting in November.

Willie Dickerson

<https://www.duluthnewstribune.com/opinion/letters/6655408-Readers-View-Urge-Senate-to-pass-the-HEROES-Act>



Covid-19

September 14, 2020

As a result of COVID-19 economics, world hunger and malnutrition is likely to double, and millions of preventable deaths from non-COVID illnesses [could occur](#) from disrupted health care. The \$3 trillion HEROES Act was devoid of any global strategy and the recent Senate proposal lacked a strong vision, too. How can we expect to fight a global battle with insular tactics?

Emergency relief for Minnesotans and other countries does not have to be mutually exclusive. Strengthening low-income countries' ability to fight this pandemic comes back to us twofold by creating better-equipped health infrastructure with which to prevent future deadly global pandemics.

Congressional dialogue can start with \$100 billion in emergency rental assistance for Americans and \$20 billion for international development, with a particular emphasis on child nutrition.

Food insecurity in Minnesota is very real and often manifests in the form of obesity and diabetes. What Minnesotans see much less often, if at all, are kwashiorkor (protein malnutrition), starvation and irreversible brain stunting caused by insufficient nutrients during critical brain development.

These are occurrences many newspapers fail to report because they happen every day, and the conclusion drawn is that they are therefore inevitable. However, if we can figure out how to launch a SpaceX Falcon 9 at a fraction of the cost of previous rockets, we can implement solutions for child hunger. It's simply about having the innovation and the political will.

Katy Czaia

<https://www.startribune.com/readers-write-climate-change-diversity-training-covid-19/572410902/>

Congress must pass moratorium on evictions

April 8, 2020

The economic fallout of COVID-19 is huge. Millions of low-wage workers have been laid off, making it virtually impossible to pay the rent or mortgage. This can quickly lead to eviction and homelessness.

I am grateful Congress has passed emergency legislation to help people experiencing housing instability and homelessness. However, the crisis is far from over, and more action is needed. In the next COVID-19 response bill, Congress must pass a national moratorium on evictions and foreclosures and provide substantial resources for emergency rental assistance.

We must also look ahead. Creating a refundable renters' tax credit to help low-income renters cover rising housing costs will give people the financial security to know that when the next crisis comes, we will be ready.

I urge our members of Congress to promptly pass measures to help struggling workers and families secure stable housing to get them through this crisis and beyond.

Greg Campbell

http://www.stlamerican.com/reader_interaction/letters_to_the_editor/congress-must-pass-moratorium-on-evictions/article_9fee108c-7a00-11ea-b4da-039824e1567d.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share



Stay-at-home order requires having homes

April 14, 2020

COVID-19 threatens the very home needed for the stay-at-home orders.

A record 16.8 million have sought U.S. jobless aid since the virus, according to media reports on April 9.

And this is still the beginning of the pandemic. Imagine what lies ahead as this number grows — millions of us will be struggling to pay the rent or the mortgage.

As all of us struggle to keep ourselves away from the virus, for many, that can become increasingly difficult if we don't act now. The safest place for everyone now is their own homes. However, the very act of staying home — not going to work and, for many, losing the job — poses an enormous threat to the housing situation and evictions may become a looming possibility.

I am grateful Congress has passed emergency legislation to help people experiencing housing instability and homelessness. However, the crisis is far from over, and everyone needs their homes to follow the stay-at-home order and to protect themselves and others from the virus.

In the next coronavirus response bill, I urge Congress to pass a national moratorium on evictions and foreclosures and provide substantial resources for emergency rental assistance.

Sri Jaladi

https://www.joplinglobe.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/your-view-letters-discuss-china-homelessness/article_587da188-3924-5685-bf64-8c2451e5201e.html



Protect, expand SNAP benefits

April 26, 2020

I am glad to hear the Webb City Farmers Market will receive \$15,000 for its SNAP program (Globe, April 21). With 22 million Americans now unemployed, families need immediate help. Unfortunately, they will need a lot more help in coming months.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly “food stamps,” is our primary defense against hunger. It feeds families when breadwinners are out of work and kids can’t go to school for assisted lunch programs. Economists agree that increasing SNAP benefits will provide a needed financial boost to our struggling economy.

In the next COVID-19 bill, our members of Congress should include a 15% increase in the SNAP maximum benefit and increase the minimum SNAP benefit to \$30. They should also suspend all administrative rules that would end or cut SNAP benefits. I encourage U.S. Sens. Roy Blunt and Josh Hawley along with U.S. Rep. Billy Long to work with congressional leaders to enact these provisions and keep them in place until the economy improves.

Cynthia Changyit Levin

https://www.joplinglobe.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/your-view-letters-discuss-clinton-water-shut-offs-snap-benefits/article_97f1bc0e-b7e1-5711-9d6d-de4421de02ad.html

We should increase SNAP

April 29, 2020

I am comforted to learn the University City Education Foundation is fundraising to continue expanded meal service to families during the COVID-19 crisis. With 22 million Americans now unemployed, families need immediate help.

SNAP, formerly “food stamps,” is our primary defense against hunger. It feeds families when breadwinners can’t work, and kids can’t go to school. Economists agree that increasing SNAP benefits will provide a needed financial boost to our struggling economy.

In the next COVID-19 bill, our members of Congress should include a 15 percent increase in the SNAP maximum benefit, increase the minimum SNAP benefit to \$30. They should also suspend all administrative rules that would end or cut SNAP benefits.

I encourage our U.S. Senators Roy Blunt and Josh Hawley, along with our U.S. Representatives Ann Wagner and Lacy Clay, to work with congressional leaders to enact these provisions and keep them in place until the economy improves.

Cynthia Levin

http://www.stlamerican.com/reader_interaction/letters_to_the_editor/we-should-increase-snap/article_5884c524-8a68-11ea-b53b-93ae57b682ae.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share



US really needs rental assistance and hunger relief

May 15, 2020

Regarding the editorial “[Moratorium on evictions, utility cutoffs needed to prevent homeless surge](#)” (May 5): In the next coronavirus aid package from Congress, it’s critical that such legislation address housing and food insecurity.

The economic downturn resulting from the pandemic has left millions of Americans unable to pay their rent. Congress should respond to this crisis by appropriating at least \$100 billion for rental assistance in its next relief bill, as well as enacting a national moratorium on evictions.

The Post-Dispatch has also reported on the increase in hunger. Historically, the best program for addressing food insecurity has been the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Congress should provide for a 15% increase in the maximum food-stamp benefit, raise the minimum benefit to \$30, and suspend administrative rules that reduce benefits.

Sens. Roy Blunt and Josh Hawley should support action in both of these areas in the next relief package.

Greg Campbell

https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/mailbag/letter-us-really-needs-rental-assistance-and-hunger-relief/article_d36b1dc7-4a43-53d4-b1e8-bf4c6f6666fa.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share



Solving the eviction problem aids in the schools' reopening

August 14, 2020

Regarding "[Options for rent, mortgage payment struggles due to COVID-19](#)" (Aug. 9): As a teacher, I want the number of coronavirus cases in St. Louis city and county to decrease so that schools can reopen. However, if something isn't done about our eviction crisis, those numbers will only continue to get worse.

We know that this issue is not just about the renters. Landlords deserve their rent so that they can pay their bills. If we want our country to recover economically, money needs to get into the hands of both renters and landlords. How can we call it a recovery when we are forcing people out of their homes in the middle of a pandemic?

The Senate should take action to address this crisis. The House of Representatives has already passed \$100 billion in emergency rental assistance and a national moratorium on evictions. The Senate and President Donald Trump should quickly agree to this. This can only benefit everyone — the economy and helping to lower our coronavirus numbers so that schools can safely reopen.

Sarah Miller

https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/mailbag/letter-solving-eviction-problem-aids-in-the-schools-reopening/article_fa0f7c78-0488-5de3-881b-4a49da3fccbc.html

Empty moves

August 14, 2020

Don't be fooled. President Donald Trump did not save the day when COVID-19 relief negotiations failed last week.

His unemployment plan uses disaster relief funds (in the middle of hurricane season) to create a system so convoluted that states can't follow it. On evictions, instead of extending the national moratorium that expired last month, he asks federal agencies whether a moratorium would help curb the virus. Then he decides to starve Medicare and Social Security by cutting the payroll tax. We all would be better off if he had done nothing.

Let's not forget, the president and his staff walked away from negotiations over the new coronavirus relief bill. The House passed a comprehensive package three months ago while Republicans did nothing. They could have been negotiating this whole time but chose not to.

And even after the Democrats offered a reasonable compromise, the White House walked. So much for being the great dealmaker the president considers himself.

Tens of millions of Americans are suffering through the worst economic disaster in nearly a century. The president and Congress must pass a COVID relief bill now that actually helps renters, the sick and the unemployed.

Jos G. Linn

https://www.kansascity.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article244913037.html?fbclid=IwAR3Q3-caF1On-prkaWy63v_XQ2akgp_keS7jiyfAhYXhG7G9eVB4JMi7peY



Use voice to urge Congress to help others

April 17, 2020

Thanks for the article about creative high school students fighting the pandemic, assisted by their teachers to make protective equipment. ("[Students fight pandemic — and get real-world experience — by using 3D printers to make face shields](#)" by Johannes Strobel, Missoulian, April 15).

The Missoulian leads by example, finding this important kind of information that works to help us be "smarter tomorrow." We all can loan our voices to help others by asking those who represent us in Congress to include \$100 billion in rent relief, a national moratorium on evictions, and a 15% increase for SNAP (food stamps) in the next relief package. Our calls, letters and virtual visits to our representatives can ensure all Americans are reached with relief and stop the coming increase in homelessness.

In addition, we can ask for \$1 billion in additional funding for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria, which has been assisting low-income countries battle COVID-19. Remember, if we don't battle disease globally, it will come back to hurt us locally!

Willie Dickerson

https://missoulian.com/opinion/letters/use-voice-to-urge-congress-to-help-others/article_89e9ac6f-97eb-5feb-8838-d592091701cf.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share

DAILY INTER LAKE

Letter to the editor

April 19, 2020

The economic fallout of COVID-19 means millions of low-wage workers are unemployed, can't pay their rent, or have enough to eat. Without help, they face hunger, eviction, and even homelessness.

The worsening crisis isn't new. According to Matthew Desmond of Princeton University, "...we have to confront the problem that all the families . . . that qualify for help will never be given help because there's just not enough aid to go around. That's a big decision we've made as a country."

I am grateful Congress has passed emergency legislation to help people in this crisis. However, more is needed. In the next COVID-19 response bill, Congress must prioritize housing and hunger by providing no less than \$100 billion for emergency rental assistance, passing a national moratorium on evictions, and increasing the maximum SNAP (formerly Food Stamps) benefit by 15 percent. Looking ahead, Congress should also create a refundable "renters' tax credit" to help low-income Americans pay the rent. With additional resources, they'll be better able to weather economic shocks.

I urge Montana Senators Jon Tester and Steve Daines, and Representative Greg Gianforte to help people secure stable housing and keep their families fed during this economic crisis and beyond.

Karen Cunningham

<https://www.dailyinterlake.com/news/2020/apr/19/letters-to-the-editor-april-19-6/>



Don't forget about deaths from AIDS, TB, and malaria

May 21, 2020

Instead of focusing on matters other than COVID-19, the Senate should be acting on the House relief package, adding support for GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria. ("[Deliberative Senate declines to debate more coronavirus aid](#)," by Lisa Mascaro, Missoulian, May 21).

Not only are these two international initiatives battling COVID-19 in over 70 countries, deaths from AIDS, TB and malaria are expected to rise from 10-36% due to focus on coronavirus.

So, call your senators and tell them it is time for action on these global pandemics to protect us locally and provide the relief the House has proposed.

Willie Dickerson

https://missoulian.com/opinion/letters/dont-forget-about-deaths-from-aids-tb-and-malaria/article_06227875-7fd4-5280-838a-c4f613981c60.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share

Taxed into deeper poverty

June 30, 2020

As recently as 2018, the Earned Income Tax and Child Tax Credit lifted 8.9 million low wage American workers above the poverty line. Now that the pandemic and resulting economic downturn has hit, it is important to prioritize and boost both the EITC and CTC.

Right now, over 5 million low wage earners without children are taxed deeper into poverty each year. Congress should expand the EITC for workers who don't claim dependents (childless workers or those whose children are grown). These rebates encourage people to work and improve the economy.

Sadly, about 27 million children in low-income families don't receive the full CTC benefit because their parents' earnings are too low. Middle class and affluent people realize the full benefit possible. I've heard many stories told by adults who as children waited until February to have new school clothes, which some called 'delayed Christmas presents,' because that's when the EITC and CTC tax rebates arrived so their parents could buy coats and shoes their growing children needed.

Expansion of both the EITC and CTC would put more money back in the pockets of working people in early 2021 when the economy and people's financial situations will still be in the process of recovery.

Please urge Senators Tester and Daines, and Representative Gianforte to encourage congressional leaders to prioritize workers and families by expanding the EITC and CTC or low-income workers and families in the next much-needed emergency relief package.

Karen Wills Cunningham

https://mtstandard.com/opinion/letters/taxed-into-deeper-poverty/article_e3240885-2e8d-5002-b58b-d78d1a399819.html



Senate leaders must take action now

August 29, 2020

Sad COVID milestones in Montana, not unlike most parts of our country ("[Montana surpasses 7,000 cases, marks 100th death](#)" by Juliana Sukut, Aug. 28).

Thanks to the House for passing the Heroes Act three months ago that could have prevented the pandemic and its economic fallout from reaching these new heights, but what about the Senate?

We need to call on Senator Daines to ask Senate leader McConnell to bring the Senate back into session and take action to protect Americans from the virus and economic disaster, as Senator Tester and many other senators have been demanding. Our calls, letters, and virtual visits can make a difference, as will our votes in November.

Willie Dickerson

https://missoulian.com/opinion/letters/senate-leaders-must-take-action-now/article_6cd8f83e-afc2-5a50-bde1-88a6b47a7c0b.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share

The Chronicle

Lawmakers must do more to protect individuals experiencing homelessness

April 6, 2020

The economic fallout of COVID-19 is devastating.

Millions of low-wage workers have been laid off, making it virtually impossible to pay the rent or mortgage; for instance, the average rent for an apartment in Durham can go well over \$1,000, taking up nearly the full amount given to beneficiaries from the emergency legislation, leaving next to no money for food, insurance and countless other essentials.

Though I am grateful Congress has passed emergency legislation to help people experiencing housing instability and homelessness, more action is needed. In the next coronavirus response bill, Congress must pass a national moratorium on evictions and foreclosures and provide substantial resources for emergency rental assistance.

We must also look ahead. Creating a refundable "renters' tax credit" to help low-income renters cover rising housing costs will give people the financial security to know that when the next crisis comes, we will be ready.

I urge our members of Congress to promptly pass measures to help struggling workers and families secure stable housing to get them through this crisis and beyond.

Joon Young Lee is a Trinity first year.

https://www.dukechronicle.com/article/2020/04/duke-university-letter-housing-insecurity-coronavirus-covid-help-aid?fbclid=IwAR0KOWQAnOp9S88oen8YgsSWvpuykVWzzIRmHB_TYdBihPvr7OqgFMTbSmE

Many can't pay rent, mortgages. Enact a national moratorium on evictions and foreclosures.

April 7, 2020

Any progress made on housing in Durham is being threatened by the economic fallout of COVID-19. Many renters have lost their income, making it impossible to pay the rent or mortgage.

I'm grateful Congress passed emergency legislation to help people experiencing housing instability and homelessness. Even some local apartment complexes have demonstrated flexibility in accepting payment. However, Congress must pass a national moratorium on evictions and foreclosures and provide substantial resources for emergency rental assistance.

We can also look ahead. Creating a refundable "renters' tax credit" to help low-income renters cover rising housing costs will give people the financial security to know that when the next crisis comes, we will be ready.

I am urging Sens. Richard Burr and Thom Tillis, along with Rep. G.K. Butterfield, to quickly pass measures to help struggling workers and families secure stable housing to get them through this crisis and beyond.

Hiba Fatima

<https://www.newsobserver.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article241795896.html>

Protecting those who need it

August 18, 2020

The Child hunger surges as COVID-19 rages by Bill Frist and Mark K. Shriver published August 5 is right on the money. Prior to COVID over one and a half million people right here in North Carolina were living in poverty, some 650,000 in deep poverty. Also, 16% of fellow North Carolinians were food insecure including 22% of the children in the state. After COVID struck those numbers are way up and the children in particular in most cases have lost their meals they would get in school.

We have to lobby our members of Congress to increase SNAP, and to do it quickly. In addition, there is an evolving crisis of homelessness. The federal unemployment checks have stopped, as have the moratoria on evictions and foreclosures. For many fellow Americans current and past due rent and mortgage payments are due with no income (and savings already exhausted) to make payment. We cannot stand to have millions of Americans evicted/foreclosed on as this will devastate the lives of those made homeless, not to mention the bankruptcy and/or default of small landlords, the drop in real estate values, and devastation of new construction.

Congress is considering \$100B measure to protect renters and homeowners from disaster. When you lobby your members of Congress about SNAP demand that they also protect renters with the proposed \$100B measure.

Howard Berkowitz

https://ashevillecitizentimes-nc.newsmemory.com/?publink=04c902f8a_1343796

Lawmakers fail to bring relief to struggling residents

August 27, 2020

North Carolina's economy is hurting, yet residents can expect little in the way of federal relief.

U.S. Senate lawmakers have recessed without passing a fifth coronavirus relief package, meaning the earliest Americans could expect any form of aid would be mid-September.

According to census survey data, nearly half of North Carolina households included someone who had lost employment income between March and the end of July.

Lindsay Saunders, board member of the anti-poverty group RESULTS, said elected officials aren't treating the situation with the urgency it deserves.

"Our own Sen. Thom Tillis sits on the banking committee," Saunders said. "Our chapters across North Carolina have had multiple conversations with our senators' offices over the past few months. Those have been great conversations, but we're not getting clear answers on what they're willing to commit to in terms of assistance for North Carolinians who are really struggling."

Census survey data shows more than 34% of Latino households in North Carolina have experienced earnings losses since March 13, as have 55% of Black households, 44% of white households and 41% of Asian households.

More than 1.2 million people have applied for unemployment benefits since the start of the pandemic.

Earlier this week, Gov. Roy Cooper announced \$175 million in funding to local governments to help residents with rent and utility payments.

Saunders said lawmakers' refusal to expand Medicaid has left more residents without options for coverage after losing their job or income during the pandemic.

She pointed out while the coronavirus crisis is making glaring disparities worse, there are concrete steps that could be taken.

"We also need to increase SNAP benefits to address food insecurity," Saunders said. "As I said, North Carolina is a really food-insecure state. And, raise the minimum benefit from \$16 to \$30 per month. Those are solutions we're calling for as advocates."

Saunders added since the onset of the pandemic, 21% of Latino households and 13% of white households with children in North Carolina reported "sometimes" or "often" not having enough to eat.

Nadia Ramlagan

<https://www.publicnewsservice.org/2020-08-27/budget-policy-and-priorities/nc-lawmakers-fail-to-bring-relief-to-struggling-residents/a71271-1>

We need leaders who lead

September 3, 2020

Story after story highlights how COVID-19 is disrupting things – education, work, paying the rent. Globally it will mean more deaths due to AIDS, tuberculosis, measles, malaria, and malnutrition.

So how could Congress leave DC with no COVID-19 bill while millions in the US and globally suffer? I'm particularly sensitive what's happening in low-income countries given estimates that progress on health could be set back 10-20 years.

We need Congress and the White house to get it together and pass a bill that focuses on the needs of the people. In addition to addressing evictions and rental assistance in the US, Senators Burr and Tillis and Rep. McHenry should ensure the final bill includes at least \$20 billion to address diseases like AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, fund Gavi the Vaccine Alliance, and mitigate hunger and malnutrition. We are counting on their leadership to break the deadlock in DC and do what is needed now.

Ken Patterson

https://ashevillecitizentimes-nc.newsmemory.com/?publink=4c7c61acf_13437eb

COVID relief

September 4, 2020

It is welcome news that the CDC has ordered a moratorium on evictions through Dec. 31. This should stave off mass evictions in the short term. Unfortunately, it is not enough to evade the long-term risks of COVID-19 inspired health and economic ruins.

Emergency rental assistance is still needed to help renters avoid an eviction “cliff” when this relief expires. It’s also needed to help small landlords who still face bills.

Economist Mark Zandi says tenants already owe “nearly \$25 billion in back rent, which could reach \$69.8 billion” by year’s end. It is imperative that N.C. Sens. Richard Burr and Thom Tillis tell leadership to resume negotiations with the House and White House and enact a robust COVID-19 deal that includes \$100 billion in emergency rental assistance.

Ruth T. Scott

<https://www.newsobserver.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article245412720.html>



Increase SNAP benefits until this crisis passes

August 25, 2020

With more than 40 million Americans unemployed while food prices are rising, people are being forced to choose between rent and groceries. This is now the situation here in North Dakota. Despite our reputation as a breadbasket, many who live here are not getting the food they need, and charitable donations cannot meet the high demand. Hunger is quickly becoming a COVID-19 health risk, and children are particularly vulnerable. Healthy brain development depends on adequate nutrition, so children can't wait.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program is our nation's first line of defense against hunger. And it is built for crises just like this. Back in 2008, SNAP not only reduced food insecurity in the middle of a recession, it also helped the economy recover (every \$1 in new SNAP spending creates \$1.50 - \$1.80 in economic activity). It can do so again.

There appears to be some bipartisan support in Congress to increase SNAP benefits during this crisis. I urge Sens. John Hoeven and Kevin Cramer to join this effort and resume COVID relief negotiations now, so legislation that increases the maximum SNAP benefit by 15% can be passed. Let's make sure our children are fed.

Kathleen Ness

<https://www.inforum.com/opinion/letters/6631660-Letter-Increase-SNAP-benefits-until-this-crisis-passes>

We need action now on COVID relief bill

August 21, 2020

Thanks to The Sentinel for the excellent report (“Standoff on US virus relief package leaves damage all around,” Aug. 11) on the D.C. standoff on the next COVID relief package and the importance of keeping families in safe, stable homes during the pandemic.

Millions of low-income renters are under threat of eviction and homelessness. COVID-19 has cost millions of Americans their jobs, and states closings threaten more. When people cannot work, they cannot pay the rent. The Aspen Institute estimates that without action from Congress, over 30-40 million low-income renters at risk of losing their homes by December.

The New Hampshire delegation is on board. Both Reps. Kuster and Pappas supported the Heroes Act in May, with its \$100 billion in emergency rental assistance, a national moratorium on eviction and expansion of SNAP and EITC. Sens. Shaheen and Hassan are vocal on the need for action. And there appears to be some bipartisan support in Congress for provisions helping renters to stay housed and landlords to get paid. They will also allow families to put food on the table, since cost-burdened renters who pay over 50 percent of their rent often must choose between rent and other necessities.

So why the delay and dithering? It has been 87 days since the House passed the Heroes Act. The White House is stalling, and the president’s executive action on evictions is just smoke — it doesn’t stop evictions nor provide any new funds to help people pay rent. It does nothing.

We need Congress and the White House to resume active negotiations now. The country needs enact a COVID-19 deal that includes \$100 billion in emergency rental assistance and a national moratorium on evictions, as well as extension of unemployment benefits, temporary expansion of SNAP to

feed hungry families, and expanded EITC to help working families stretch their dollars.

Please join me in calling Sens. Shaheen and Hassan, and Reps. Kuster and Pappas (Congressional Switchboard number: 202-224-3121), as well as the president, (202-456-1111), urging them to get negotiations back on track, but holding out for robust provisions for rental assistance, eviction moratorium and unemployment insurance. There is no time to waste. The well-being of our people is the life blood of this country. We need action now.

Lucinda Winslow

https://www.sentinelsource.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/we-need-action-now-on-covid-relief-bill-by-lucinda-winslow/article_7a797940-36b2-5764-a646-cb78aebd2bd3.html

Help each other — and start speaking out

May 2, 2020

Friends and I have been sharing ideas about places to make donations in the midst of this health and economic crisis. I have chosen locally the Interfaith Community Shelter at Pete's Place and The Food Depot. But we also are asking what else can we do while staying at home that would be helpful.

Here's a suggestion that can be done from home with email or phone. Use your voice to tell our congressional delegation to fight for more funding for food, low-income rental housing and prevention of homelessness in the next piece of COVID-19 relief funding. Specifically, increase funding by at least 15 percent for SNAP (food stamps), which provides food help to 1 in 4 New Mexicans; add \$100 billion in emergency rental assistance for low-income renters; and enact a national moratorium on evictions until this crisis is over and people are working again.

Call U.S. Rep Ben Luján, 202-225-6190; Sen. Tom Udall, 202-224-6621; Sen. Martin Heinrich, 202-224-5521.

Lydia Pendley

https://www.santafenewmexican.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/help-each-other-and-start-speaking-out/article_aa28a8ca-8a7f-11ea-8f09-07aa9d5bde5e.html

Hungry children need help now

August 1, 2020

“If we can conquer space, we can conquer childhood hunger.” — Buzz Aldrin

As *The New Mexican* reported in June, Save the Children released a report on how each state protects and provides for its children. Although data in this report was gathered before the coronavirus pandemic hit, it provides a baseline indication of need. New Mexico had the highest child food insecurity rate (a measure of missed meals and inadequate money for food) among the 50 states (“New Mexico child disparities on food, violence ranked high,” June 7). We scored last with a rate of 24.1 percent of children living with food insecurity (the national average is 17 percent).

Now the news is worse — by mid-July, New Mexico had more than 550 deaths and rising, from more than 15,500 persons who were known to have contracted the virus. But the suffering and pain has extended far beyond deaths and impaired health. Thousands of New Mexicans have been terminated or furloughed from their employment as businesses closed. Nonprofits and local governments have been stretching their resources to meet their needs. Even with the available public benefits for families with children, they are struggling. Worst of all, neither health officials nor economists can predict the end of this crisis.

Food insecurity is skyrocketing nationally and is particularly severe in families with young children. The current emergency is so great in New Mexico that between March 9 and June 15, The Food Depot, Northern New Mexico’s food bank, distributed over 3 million pounds of food — enough for 2.5 million meals, far more than in a typical four-month period.

The intensity of the food emergency in New Mexico raises the specter of children suffering as they skip meals or experience days with no sustenance

at all, which creates additional stress for parents struggling to figure out how to survive this crisis.

Because of the pandemic, challenges with food security are more significant than ever before. In Santa Fe, solutions have been put in place to address acute, immediate needs through the summer. The Food Depot, Santa Fe Public Schools, Presbyterian Santa Fe Medical Center and YouthWorks are all working to feed Santa Fe's youth. The Food Depot's sites are distributing freshly prepared to-go sack meals, along with suggested activities for the children to do at home, in addition to providing groceries weekly.

The organizations above started intensive planning — first twice a week and then once a week with “a million emails; a million phone calls in between,” as one of the organizations said — to work through the challenges. “It was amazing. I’ve never seen a community come together like this before,” Carrie Thielen, community health program manager for Presbyterian Santa Fe Medical Center, said of the effort. The outcome was a comprehensive plan for food distribution, which began with identifying the existing distribution sites among the organizations, finding gaps and seeing who could fill them.

This program will help reduce food insecurity for New Mexico's children for the next few weeks, but more is needed to truly address the crisis of hunger that puts New Mexico in last place among the states. With the Summer Food Program ending, expanded SNAP support expiring and uncertainty around schools opening, food insecurity is sure to continue through the fall. The Food Depot urgently needs support at all levels to continue to lead the hunger relief community and to meet the needs of Northern New Mexico.

Carolyn Kastner and Gerry Fairbrother are members of the Public Policy and Advocacy Committee of The Food Depot. Melynn Schuyler of Santa Fe Youthworks, Betsy Cull of Santa Fe Public Schools and Carrie Thielen, community health program manager at Presbyterian Santa Fe Medical Center, contributed to this piece.

https://www.santafenewmexican.com/opinion/my_view/hungry-children-need-help-now/article_30f00596-cd3e-11ea-858f-b7c9e3fe22cb.html

Congress must act to relieve suffering

August 20, 2020

The late U.S. Rep. John Lewis told us through his words and actions that where we saw wrong, we should get in trouble — good trouble, necessary trouble — to right the wrong. Such a wrong that we think he would have wanted to right is that of Congress leaving critical unfinished business before taking its August recess. The critical action that is needed is passage of the next COVID-19 relief bill.

Right now, the \$600 federal unemployment benefit and the national moratorium on evictions have both expired. Stimulus checks have been long used up. Help is urgently needed for millions of Americans who are out of work, facing eviction from their homes and deciding which meal to skip because there is not enough money to buy groceries. Congress — i.e., the Senate — must respond with compassion and adequate levels of funding to meet this unprecedented crisis. We support a final COVID-19 relief bill that reflects the provisions of the HEROES Act, which was passed over two months ago by the House of Representatives. Of critical importance are inclusion of \$100 billion to provide emergency rental assistance to people on the verge of eviction, restoration of the moratorium on evictions and a 15 percent increase in SNAP benefits for those who can't afford food for their families.

Get in good trouble! Please pick up the phone to call our senators (Sen. Tom Udall: 202-224-6621; Sen. Martin Heinrich: 202-224-5521) or go to their websites (tomudall@senate.gov; martinheinrich@senate.gov). Tell them to demand that the majority leader of the Senate, Mitch McConnell, call the Senate back into session. We need to thank our own two senators for fighting for a COVID-19 relief bill that immediately meets the needs of struggling, hurting Americans and that will help sustain our economy.

Lydia Pendley

https://www.santafenewmexican.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/congress-must-act-to-relieve-suffering/article_a49b7df6-e27c-11ea-b9b8-13f09196b8e0.htm



People struggling need help now

April 23, 2020

What a great idea, to share your relief check if you don't need it, by over tipping people who have been out of work once the city reopens ("Here's a tip for an economic boost" April 19).

Of course, food banks could use some help right now. Even those who need their check can help others by asking their representatives in Congress to pass a national moratorium on evictions and \$100 billion rent relief in the next relief package, along with a 15% increase in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (food stamps).

With a third of renters unable to pay rent this month, this is badly needed to stem the flood to homelessness. Our calls, letters, and virtual visits can help ensure that the next national relief package battles hunger, homelessness and the pandemic.

Willie Dickerson

<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2020/apr/23/people-struggling-need-help-now/>



Tell Congress to act heroically

August 11, 2020

Sen. Jacky Rosen, D-Nev., is correct: The Senate needs to pass the critical solutions put forth in the HEROES Act ('Congress must step up and support Nevada in the fight against COVID-19,' Aug. 3).

In addition to funding for state and local governments, the act features \$75 billion for public health departments across the nation, \$100 billion for emergency rent relief, a national moratorium on evictions, and a 15% increase to SNAP (food stamps) to prevent deluge of hunger.

Since we are all in this together, we can use our voices to call for these solutions, requesting that Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell include this much needed relief. The alternative is bankrupted state and local governments, ineffective health departments, and 19 million to 23 million Americans facing evictions by the end of September, according to the Aspen Institute, plus a deluge of hunger across the country.

Our voices matter; our calls and letters can help these solutions become law.

Willie Dickerson

<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2020/aug/11/tell-congress-to-act-heroically/>

The Columbus Dispatch

Financial assistance crucial to prevent mass evictions

May 27, 2020

I respond to the May 10 Sunday editorial “[COVID-19 pandemic worsens the housing crisis](#)” and am grateful for the Dispatch editorial board’s wisdom in acknowledging and highlighting the dire circumstances of those living on the brink of homelessness.

On May 15, the U.S. House of Representatives approved the latest coronavirus stimulus relief package, entitled “[The Heroes Act](#),” which includes \$100 billion in emergency rental assistance and a national uniform moratorium on evictions for all renters.

The financial assistance offered in this package, for those who could face eviction as soon as June, has never been more urgent.

The fate of these families rests in the hands of the Senate. I urge Sen. Rob Portman to hold fast to his commitment to disrupt the “eviction epidemic” that was already rampant for our low-income earners prior to COVID-19.

We must prioritize the housing and health needs of these Americans who face enormous risks in the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mary Casey

<https://www.dispatch.com/opinion/20200527/letter-financial-assistance-crucial-to-prevent-mass-evictions>

The Columbus Dispatch

Virus, joblessness demand we help fellow Americans

June 29, 2020

Will homelessness and eviction be the legacies of COVID-19? If Congress does not act soon, they will be.

Millions of Americans have lost their jobs because of the virus. When people cannot work, they cannot pay the rent. Even with some getting unemployment insurance, millions are still falling behind, putting low-income renters under the threat of losing their homes.

Some in Congress want to take a wait-and-see attitude with the economy, but when the country is in crisis, patience is a luxury only a privileged few can afford.

I urge our members of Congress to push for quick passage of a COVID-19 bill that includes at least \$100 billion for emergency rental assistance and a national moratorium on evictions.

If we act now to help our fellow Americans keep their homes, our leadership and compassion will be the true legacies of COVID-19.

Roy Wentzel

<https://www.dispatch.com/opinion/20200629/letter-virus-joblessness-demand-we-help-fellow-americans>

The Columbus Dispatch

People of color suffer most medically, economically

August 20, 2020

Thanks for the Friday Dispatch editorial "[Jobless pay failures hurt most needy](#)," which highlighted the utter failure of President Trump and Senate Republicans. His so-called executive orders are useless and hollow. They masquerade as a fix but actually do nothing to meet the growing needs of the unemployed.

Tragically, it's once again Black and Brown families and children who are most severely affected by our failed health and economic policies.

It seems to me that once we realized that people of color were the ones disproportionately impacted by the virus, the intensity for controlling it waned. Now, the failure to meet the needs of families who can't pay their rent and feed their children is also having a disproportionate impact on families of color.

What else can we expect from a government that has failed them time and time again?

Virginia Vogts

<https://www.dispatch.com/opinion/20200820/letter-people-of-color-suffer-most-medically-economically>

Hood River News

COVID vulnerable

April 22, 2020

Social distancing, stay-at-home orders, essential workers, flatten the curve, school closures: These are words and phrases that can be heard daily and have become the new norm during this COVID-19 pandemic. Family lives and routines flipped upside down, parents are being asked to work from home whenever possible and are expected to watch their children, since childcare may not be possible.

Children's day to day lives have also completely changed and for some, not for the better. Children are unable to play with their friends and for some, unable to eat the meals that would have been provided from their school. The parents whose lives have felt the direct impact of COVID-19 may feel frustrated, stressed, scared, and even short-tempered or angry. Those children, whose escape was leaving the house to go to school, are now home bound and vulnerable.

With financial uncertainty and the increase in stress on parents, we will unfortunately see a rise in child abuse and neglect cases. Now more than ever, we need to support struggling families and protect vulnerable children. The Oregon Child Welfare Department report that calls into the hotline are down 70 percent. Washington reports similar drops in calls to their hotline.

During these perilous times, there are resources available to parents who are finding themselves in desperate need of help.

1. Women, Infants and Children (WIC), 541-506-2610
2. Department of Health and Human Services (DHS), 503-945-5600
3. Hood River County School District offers meals to children in need. They provide meals at various school sites M/W/F from 9-11 a.m. and various mobile sites.

April is Child Abuse Awareness month and during COVID-19, the youngest children who are unable to speak up for themselves are the most at risk. If you see someone you know struggling, talk to them. If you suspect abuse or neglect, please call your local law enforcement or the child abuse hotlines In Oregon, call 1-855-503-7233; in Washington, call 1-866-363-4276.

From all of us at Columbia Gorge Children's Advocacy Center
(www.cgcac.org).

Leanna Grant

https://www.hoodrivernews.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor-april-22-edition/article_99b2d14e-83f6-11ea-b3b1-4b1802cb17fa.html



Even More Stimulation

April 30, 2020

Thanks for the inspirational title you put on Mike Berg's letter, "Stimulating Compassion" (*EW* 4/23) — perfect timing for his and your inspiration! Like Berg, my wife and I are retired and have enough, so we plan to donate our checks as well. We gave parts to the food bank, experiencing a spike in need; to RESULTS (Results.org) for their work to end hunger and poverty; to some local folks unable to pay rent and buy food; to small businesses that are not receiving anything, but hope to reopen; and National Public Radio, for keeping up an accurate flow of information.

Even if you can't afford to share your check, you can share your voice: Ask your members of Congress to call for a national moratorium on evictions, provide the rent relief needed (at least \$100 billion), increase SNAP by 15 percent or more and increase funding for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria.

Our calls, emails, and virtual visits can help insure we beat this pandemic on a local, national and global scale, the only way to really win.

Willie Dickerson

<https://eugeneweekly.com/2020/04/30/even-more-stimulation/>

PortlandTribune

Congress should provide rent relief in pandemic

May 12, 2020

Thanks for the thoughtful article by Steve Messinetta, "Virus underlies dire need for housing" (Portland Tribune May 6).

My immediate family, children and grandkids are fine. But on Mother's Day, walking downtown, my husband and I wondered not only how these people living in tents or cardboard houses were faring, but also thought about people we don't come in to contact with who are struggling to put food on their table and pay the rent.

Although it's easy to be resigned with the status quo, the great news is we all have the power to change the course of events. Yes, we do. Results.org is working to help everyday people make sure their voice is heard. Ask your members of Congress to provide the rent relief needed (at least \$100 billion), increase SNAP by 15 percent or more and increase funding (to include COVID relief) for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria.

So today let's call, email or set up one on one visits with your senator and or representative so we can end this pandemic locally, nationally and globally. In the end we all win.

Janet Brumbaugh

<https://pamplinmedia.com/pt/10-opinion/466241-377867-readers-letters-whos-hoarding-all-those-garbanzo-beans>



Americans Can Work Together

May 28, 2020

It was inspirational to see neighbors working together to create much needed hand sanitizer. ("It Takes a Village" *EW* 4/9). As an American neighborhood we can also work together to help millions of people who were having trouble paying rent before the pandemic, often paying more than 50 percent of their income, too often meaning the food or medicine money was gone.

During this pandemic, we have helped homeowners in the relief package, but not renters. It is time for Congress to call for a national moratorium on evictions and pass a \$100 billion renters relief fund, a 15 percent increase for SNAP (food stamp benefits) and look at long term solutions like a renter's refundable tax credit. Our calls, letters and virtual visits to those who represent us can help this to happen, avoiding a new flood of homelessness and a prolonged spread of the coronavirus, when folks have nowhere to shelter in place or wash their hands.

Willie Dickerson

<https://eugeneweekly.com/2020/05/28/americans-can-work-together/>

Hood River News

Country of hope

July 15, 2020

Inspiring to see all the volunteer effort to help feed those in need with the food bank garden. ("FISH Food Bank garden grows, with help, during COVID-19" by Trish Walker (July 8). With all of the unemployment, hunger has increased drastically in America. The House passed a bill to increase SNAP (food stamp) benefits, along with rent relief to prevent millions of foreclosures, but the Senate has not responded.

Time to help by calling and writing those who represent us and tell them it is time to end hunger and homelessness in America. The more we speak up, the better chance America will become a country of hope for all.

Willie Dickerson

https://www.hoodrivernews.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor-july-15-edition/article_40ca7930-c5f8-11ea-bc55-e3fb2842eec2.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share



Congress must act now to prevent millions from being evicted

August 1, 2020

Millions of low-income renters face the threat of eviction and homelessness unless Congress acts soon. According to the United States Census Bureau, in 2019, 13.9% of Union County residents were living in poverty, and these numbers have without a doubt increased due to the COVID-19 pandemic and an inability for many to maintain gainful employment.

COVID-19 has cost more than 40 million Americans their jobs. When people cannot work, they cannot pay the rent. As local eviction bans expire this summer, low-income renters will owe thousands of dollars in back rent. Without help, these renters will be forced out of their homes in the middle of a pandemic, exacerbating the already dire situation faced by many in our community.

The House has passed several bills that would enact a national moratorium on evictions and provide \$100 billion to help low-income renters pay the rent. This will help millions of renters stay housed, and their landlords will get paid, until the economy improves. It is time for the Senate to do the same.

Congress must act now to prevent millions from being evicted. I urge our members of Congress to push for quick passage of a COVID-19 bill that includes at least \$100 billion for emergency rental assistance and a national moratorium on evictions. I also urge every member of Union County to contact our members of Congress and make our voices heard.

Brittany Pryce

https://www.lagrandeobserver.com/opinion/letters/letter-congress-must-act-now-to-prevent-millions-from-being-evicted/article_f29eb420-d1f4-11ea-ac93-5f7c29943248.html



Relief package and emergency rental assistance needed sooner rather than later

September 5, 2020

Oct. 1 marks the date when millions of low-income renters will be under threat of eviction and homelessness. Millions have lost their jobs or income, and when people cannot work, they cannot pay the rent. Researchers at the Aspen Institute estimate that without action from Congress, more than 30 million low-income renters are at risk of losing their homes this year. Oregonians across the state are facing the possibility of homelessness.

There appears to be some bipartisan support in Congress to provide emergency rental assistance and enact a national moratorium on evictions. This will help renters stay housed and landlords get paid. But the White House is stalling. We must remind policymakers that families cannot wait — we need another relief package NOW and for emergency rental assistance to be a priority. This is not a partisan issue. It is an issue of how we treat humankind.

It's time for Congress and President Donald Trump to resume negotiations and enact a COVID-19 deal that includes \$100 billion in emergency rental assistance and a national moratorium on evictions. The election is coming. We will remember who acted for or against our most vulnerable in our time of need.

Brittany Pryce

https://www.lagrandeobserver.com/opinion/letters/letter-relief-package-and-emergency-rental-assistance-needed-sooner-rather-than-later/article_7630594e-ed64-11ea-959c-e7ea590c6492.html



Letter to the Editor: Housing crisis will get worse; we must act

March 30, 2020

The economic fallout of COVID-19 is huge. Millions of low-wage workers have been laid off, making it virtually impossible to pay the rent or mortgage. This can quickly lead to eviction and homelessness.

I am grateful Congress has passed emergency legislation to help people experiencing housing instability and homelessness. However, the crisis is far from over and more action is needed. In the next coronavirus response bill, Congress must pass a national moratorium on evictions and foreclosures and provide substantial resources for emergency rental assistance.

We must also look ahead. Creating a refundable "renters' tax credit" to help low-income renters cover rising housing costs will give people the financial security to know that when the next crisis comes, we will be ready.

I urge our members of Congress to promptly pass measures to help struggling workers and families secure stable housing to get them through this crisis and beyond.

Bridget Hughes

<https://www.goerie.com/opinion/20200330/letter-to-editor-housing-crisis-will-get-worse-we-must-act>

Housing measures needed during crisis

April 1, 2020

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https://observer-reporter.com/opinion/letters/letter-housing-measures-needed-during-crisis/article_8f91bcbc-72b6-11ea-9c29-2358d017d1d1.html



Letter to the editor: Strengthen food assistance across nation

April 17, 2020

In the of era of social distancing, Pittsburghers are more united than ever — not only are we keeping up with work and loved ones through video calls, we are also coming together to meet the needs of our community ([“Outside PPG Paints Arena and Rivers Casino, groups rally to feed the hungry,”](#) April 10, TribLIVE).

However, to address the needs of the 2 million Pennsylvanians and nearly 40 million Americans at large whose struggle with hunger has only gotten more difficult amid the coronavirus pandemic, it is crucial that Congress and the Trump administration prioritize strengthening food assistance via SNAP (formerly food stamps).

On April 9, Sen. Bob Casey and a group of Pennsylvania representatives, including Mike Doyle and Conor Lamb, submitted a letter urging Senate and House leaders to do just that. They called for a hold on rules limiting SNAP eligibility and a boost in the maximum SNAP benefit by 15%, among other strengthening provisions. I sincerely thank these members of Congress and urge Sen. Pat Toomey to join their efforts in the hopes that Congress and the administration can show the same solidarity that we are seeing in our community.

Keerthana V. Samanthapudi

<https://triblive.com/opinion/letter-to-the-editor-strengthen-food-assistance-across-nation/>

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Provide rental assistance

April 19, 2020

I am grateful to see Pittsburgh organizations like Highmark taking steps to counter the economic fallout of COVID-19 for those most vulnerable, but our government needs to do more (April 14, "Highmark Partners With Care Network to Aid in Pandemic").

Even before the pandemic struck, America's housing crisis had been getting worse for years. A Harvard report found that since 1960, renters' median earnings have increased 5% while cost of rent has increased 61%. COVID-19 is driving an already precarious situation to the brink. This month, nearly a third of U.S. renters could not pay their rent, and 1.5 million families are at risk for homelessness.

I call on U.S. Rep. Mike Doyle, D-Forest Hills, and Sens. Bob Casey, D-Pa., and Pat Toomey, R-Pa., to support \$100 billion in emergency rental assistance and a national moratorium on evictions in the next COVID-19 relief bill, as well as a longer-term "renters' tax credit," to aid the millions of Americans struggling to keep a roof over their heads. The end of poverty is in reach — all that is lacking is political will to fight for it.

Bridget Hughes

<https://www.post-gazette.com/opinion/letters/2020/04/19/Provide-rental-assistance/stories/202004190056>

DAILY TIMES

Letter to the Editor: COVID-19 sparks need for housing

April 29, 2020

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We must also look ahead. Creating a refundable “renters’ tax credit” to help low-income renters cover rising housing costs will give people the financial security to know that when the next crisis comes, we will be ready.

I urge our members of Congress to promptly pass measures to help struggling workers and families secure stable housing to get them through this crisis and beyond.

Mary McMahon

https://www.delcotimes.com/opinion/letter-to-the-editor-covid--sparks-need-for-housing/article_6cba1af0-7161-11ea-9dcb-af6c2259f61c.html

The Sentinel

Keeping people in their homes should be a priority

May 22, 2020

I read recently that Gov. Wolf issued an order barring evictions and foreclosures until July 11. There are still a handful of states that are allowing these court processes to continue, despite having stay at home orders that have resulted not only in a “flattened curve” of coronavirus infections, but also a sharp increase in unemployment.

Congress provided some help in the CARES Act: the emergency grants to households and the ban on evictions from federally assisted housing. However, there will be a serious reckoning when the moratoriums expire. In March, before the pandemic took off, Pennsylvanians were dealing with an affordable housing shortage. As in other states, we have a great many households that have to spend 50% or more of their income on housing. A Harvard study showed that since 1960 renters' incomes have gone up 5% while housing costs are up 61%. Stable housing has been shown to be vital to raising healthy children. Families committing so much to housing creates great strain covering all the other expenses of living.

Here's the point: we have a shortage of affordable housing; the pandemic will probably result in a big increase in summer evictions, as landlords find that currently unemployed renters can't pay the back rent; the shortage assures that apartments won't stay vacant long. The results will be harsh and avoidable.

Organizations that advocate for landlords and for tenants have called on Congress to provide emergency rent relief. Pennsylvanians are fortunate that Sen. Pat Toomey serves on the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee. If he chooses, he should insist that \$100 billion in renters' relief is part of the next phase. It's up to us to urge him to do so.

Bruce Kessler

https://cumberlink.com/opinion/letters/letter-keeping-people-in-their-homes-should-be-a-priority/article_f02e3ac5-053e-53d4-9aa0-4cf046200b6f.html



Housing crisis will only get worse during pandemic

June 1, 2020

COVID-19 has created unprecedented levels of unemployment in the U.S. and Pennsylvania. When people cannot work, how are they to pay the rent? Or buy food? Even with unemployment insurance, millions of Americans are falling behind.

With unpaid rent piling up, renters face the looming threat of eviction and homelessness. And children no longer in school are not only missing lessons, they are also missing meals that for many was their only source of food during the day. We can and must help.

I urge U.S. Rep. Mike Doyle, Sen. Bob Casey and Sen. Pat Toomey to support legislation that includes at least \$100 billion for emergency rental assistance, a national moratorium on evictions, and a 15 percent increase in the maximum SNAP benefit (formerly food stamps). Hunger and homelessness do not have to be the legacy of COVID-19. If we act now, they won't be.

Claire Hughes

<https://www.goerie.com/opinion/20200601/letter-to-editor-housing-crisis-will-only-get-worse-during-pandemic>

The Sentinel

A need for rental assistance

July 31, 2020

It looks like the COVID-19 pandemic will last for some time. Our current best-case scenario may be to get back to where the country was in June, before “re-opening” led to spikes in the virus’ spread. When we somehow do that, preservation of stable housing should be a priority.

First, we need discipline to slow the spread. Then we must take practical measures for isolating those who test positive and those who have come in contact with them. This public health strategy is used successfully in all epidemics that spread from person to person. Evictions and foreclosures thwart the public interest at this time.

What kind of “isolating” will be necessary in our country for many months to come? Everyone subject to it needs to be able to isolate at home for 14 days or more. That is, they need to stop working and they need a home to which they can retreat.

Congress addressed it in the CARES Act back in March: extra unemployment benefits and a hold on evictions from federally aided housing. However, both of these have expired. To its credit, Pennsylvania used some of its CARES money to establish a rental assistance program. It’s not complicated: landlord and tenant apply for up to \$750 per month, with the money going directly to the landlord.

Congress should use this model for the nation in its next Coronavirus relief act by setting aside \$100 billion for rental assistance and making the evictions moratorium truly nationwide.

We know U.S. Sen. Pat Toomey is a strong opponent of what he calls “disincentives” to work. Since he clearly wants everyone to go back to work, he should support this expenditure to keep them housed when sick or exposed to COVID-19. With 30 million workers still laid off due to the virus.

Bruce Kessler

https://cumberlink.com/opinion/letters/letter-a-need-for-rental-assistance/article_d9d72fd4-b341-52f4-b4eb-415d59a76924.html

The Ambler Gazette

Protect renters with federal aid

September 11, 2020

Tell Congress and the President to act now to protect renters:

With the first of the month, millions of low-income renters are struggling to make ends meet. Millions have lost their jobs or income and when people cannot work, they cannot pay the rent. While it is great that the CDC is declaring a halt to evictions for the rest of the year, emergency rental assistance is still needed for both renters and small landlords. According to conservative economist Mark Zandi, "Tenants already owe nearly \$25 billion in back rent, which could reach \$69.8 billion by the end of the year."

There appears to be some bipartisan support in Congress to provide emergency rental assistance. This will help renters avoid an eviction "cliff" later this year, and for small landlords who still face bills. But the White House is stalling. We must remind policymakers that families cannot wait -- we need another relief package NOW and for emergency rental assistance to be a priority.

It's time for Congress and President Trump to resume negotiations now and enact a robust COVID-19 deal that includes \$100 billion in emergency rental assistance.

Dr. David Ehrenkrantz

https://www.montgomerynews.com/amblergazette/letter-to-editor-protect-renters-with-federal-aid/article_a93c3c90-f449-11ea-b92b-ff0f7e8c02e6.html

Statesman

A renter's tax credit would provide relief

June 1, 2020

America already had a housing crisis before coronavirus hit. The pandemic and resultant economic crisis spotlight millions of Texas renters who are one paycheck away from losing their home. While emergency assistance to help renters get through this crisis is essential, we need long-term measures that prioritize low-income renters.

A refundable renter's tax credit could make a significant difference. Low-income renters would receive a monthly tax refund to help cover payments for rent over 30 percent of their household income (capped at HUD's local fair market rent). Paired with measures to increase the supply of affordable housing and reduce evictions, a renters' credit could ensure that people have a place to live.

Once the immediate public health crisis passes, I urge Sens. John Cornyn and Ted Cruz, along with Texas Representatives, to enact a refundable renters' tax credit so that low-income Americans can have a safe and affordable place to live.

Ginger Hansel

<https://www.statesman.com/opinion/20200601/letters-to-editor-june-1-2020>

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Spend now or pay more later

August 6, 2020

Millions of Texans are renters. At least 20% of them weren't able to pay rent this month. We must provide emergency rental assistance now.

Congress and the administration must include \$100 billion in the COVID-19 relief bill under consideration if we are to prevent millions of Texans from being evicted and many ending up homeless.

Craig C. Roshaven

<https://www.star-telegram.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article244687022.html>

Statesman

Cornyn, Senate should pass a relief package

August 18, 2020

Re: Aug. 16 article, "Americans waiting on help, but Congress is in recess."

I am appalled that the Senate recessed for three weeks without passing emergency legislation to address the pandemic and economic crisis. Sen. John Cornyn shows he is a leader by standing behind Sen. Mitch McConnell on TV. How about he and his colleagues take action to deal with the emergency America faces?

Sen. Cornyn and the Senate need to go back to work and pass a COVID-19 package that provides [\\$100 billion emergency rental assistance](#) to avert the catastrophe of [20 million Americans evicted](#). What about the [more than 25 million workers who got their last \\$600 supplement with their unemployment check at the end of July](#)? And, [according to experts, they need to provide \\$20 billion](#) to keep the wheels from falling off international humanitarian health work.

This is a real crisis for real Americans. We need real leaders who will take real action right now.

Mark Coats

<https://www.statesman.com/opinion/20200818/letters-to-editor-aug-18-2020>

Statesman

Ditch the power struggles and help working people

August 21, 2020

Re: Aug. 16 article, "Americans waiting on help, but Congress is in recess."

I am amazed at the hard-heartedness of our federal government. Elected officials in Washington are worrying about spending too much when people have lost their jobs due to the pandemic.

How do they think our economy will recover and tax dollars be collected if people are homeless and buried in debt? How will people return to work when companies are going out of business? How will landlords pay their mortgages and taxes when renters can't pay their rent?

Congress needs to put aside their power struggles and find solutions benefiting the people in this country. Pass a bill providing \$100 billion in rent relief. Pass a bill assisting small businesses to stay solvent. Pass a bill to stop evictions. The hard-working people that kept our economy humming until the pandemic arrived deserve this respect.

Eloise Sutherland

<https://www.statesman.com/opinion/20200821/letters-to-editor-august-21-2020>

Statesman

Cornyn: I'll keep fighting for more pandemic relief

August 23, 2020

Re: Aug. 18 letter to the editor, "Cornyn, Senate should pass a relief package."

In his Aug. 18 letter, a writer expressed his desire for Congress to do more to help Texans suffering from the economic consequences of the pandemic. We've passed five coronavirus relief packages so far, and I share his frustration that we're stalled on a sixth.

To date, Congress has passed trillions of dollars in coronavirus relief, including \$312 billion in public health funding and \$28 billion for COVID-19 testing. We've sent recovery checks of up to \$1,200 per individual, boosted unemployment benefits with an additional \$600 per week, and appropriated more than \$25 billion to help Americans suffering from food insecurity.

Still, we need to do more for Texans who are out of a job through no fault of their own. I support an extension of enhanced federal unemployment benefits, another round of recovery checks, and more funding for schools and childcare. I'll keep fighting to deliver that for Texans.

John Cornyn, U.S. Senator

<https://www.statesman.com/opinion/20200823/letters-to-editor-august-23-2020>

The Washington Post

The wealth crisis affecting Black Americans is only getting worse thanks to evictions — and covid-19

September 4, 2020

Policymaking under the Trump administration has come to Ikea paying for legal aid for lawyers to protect citizens from evictions [[“Weeks behind rest of region, D.C. decides on jobless benefits,”](#) Metro, Sept. 1].

How is the largest eviction crisis in U.S. history — facing 30 million renting households — not worthy of the attention, leadership or action of the Senate? Are they waiting until people are living in shelters or are doubled up with cousins, with [coronavirus](#) cases skyrocketing in the crowding?

The price of protecting at-risk renters now is a bargain compared with the costs of addressing homelessness, job loss, debt, addictions, educational losses, coronavirus spikes and economic drag for millions of families later.

Millions of families will have their lives and livelihoods set back many years beyond the end of the pandemic — stymied by the stain of eviction on their credit reports — because Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) failed to negotiate real assistance at the time of our country's greatest need. A weak eviction moratorium comes weeks too late for many and only postpones the crisis if it is not paired with emergency rental assistance.

It takes Black and brown people many years longer than White people to return to their prerecession economic level. The eviction crisis will drastically expand the already yawning racial wealth gap, where median Black ownership of wealth is already less than one-tenth of median White wealth and trending to reach [zero by 2053](#).

Ikea cannot rescue these millions of renters, but Congress can and must, thereby preventing far more costly and difficult problems, with at least \$100 billion in emergency rental assistance.

Katharine Landfield

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/letters-to-the-editor/the-wealth-crisis-affecting-black-americans-is-only-getting-worse-thanks-to-evictions--and-covid-19/2020/09/04/c6893ee8-ed36-11ea-bd08-1b10132b458f_story.html



Stimulus checks are a great start, but Americans need more help

April 21, 2020

Thanks for the excellent editorial about how to make the most compassionate difference [with our stimulus checks](#).

Even if we are in need of the stimulus checks, we can help others by speaking to our members of Congress, asking them to include \$1 billion of rent relief in the next relief package along with a national moratorium on evictions. Combine this with a 15% increase in SNAP benefits and it will bring hope and battle hunger for millions of American families, for whom the stimulus check will just not be enough to prevent them from becoming homeless.

Willie Dickerson

<https://www.deseret.com/opinion/2020/4/21/21222282/letter-stimulus-checks-are-a-great-start-but-americans-need-more-help>

The Salt Lake Tribune

We need emergency rent assistance

April 25, 2020

Last month, nearly one-third of Americans could not pay rent. As cities, counties and states throughout the nation shelter in place to stem the spread of COVID-19, unemployment has skyrocketed, leaving many without income to pay for housing.

Beyond humanitarian concerns, the rental market faces possible collapse. Meanwhile, homelessness aids the virus's spread. And the economy cannot recover until the disease is under control.

I ask our Utah congressional delegation to make housing a priority by providing at least \$100 billion in emergency rental assistance, and by passing a temporary national moratorium on evictions.

Thankfully, Congress has passed some urgent emergency housing legislation. But more is needed.

Georgia Platts

<https://www.sltrib.com/opinion/letters/2020/04/25/letter-we-need-emergency/>



Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus: A post-pandemic world should deliver a new future for capitalism

May 19, 2020

The extent of damage that the current coronavirus pandemic is causing the world is mind-boggling. However, despite this massive damage, it offers us an unparalleled opportunity.

Right now, the whole world has to address a big question. It is not about how to get the economy running again. We know how to do that. The big question that we have to answer is: Do we take the world back to where it was before this coronavirus came? Is that a worthy goal? Or, do we *redesign*? The decision is entirely ours.

The pre-pandemic world was full of strife and threat of collapse. Until COVID-19 became the news, we literally were counting the days until the whole planet would be unfit for human existence due to climate catastrophe; we were under serious threat of massive unemployment created by artificial intelligence; and wealth concentration was reaching an explosive level.

Should we go back to that world? The choice is ours.

The coronavirus suddenly changed the context and calculus of the world. It has opened up audacious possibilities that never existed before. Suddenly we are at the tabula rasa — the blank slate. There has been so much destruction that we must rebuild. We can go any direction we want. What unbelievable freedom of choice.

Before we truly restart the economy, we must decide on what kind of economy we want. First and foremost, we have to recognize that we are the economy and “the economy” is a means. It facilitates us to reach the goals set by us. We should not forget for a moment that it is a system or tool made by us. It should not behave like a death trap. We must keep on designing and

redesigning it until we arrive at the highest collective flourishing, resilience and happiness.

If at any point we feel that the economy is not taking us where we want to go, we should understand that there is something wrong with the software we are currently using, and we need to rewrite the code. All we have to do is to fix it. If we want to create a world of zero net carbon emission, we build the right metaphorical hardware and software to achieve it. If we want a world of zero unemployment, we do the same. If we want a world of shared prosperity and less astronomical concentration of wealth, we do the same. The power is in us. When human beings set their mind to get something done, they do it. Little is impossible.

The COVID-19 crisis offers us almost limitless opportunities to make a fresh start. We can start designing our system to create the results we want. Now is the time to reimagine the future.

One simple unanimous decision will help us tremendously: a clear resolve that we don't want to go back to where we were.

We don't want to jump back into the same frying pan in the name of recovery. We should not even call what's next a "recovery."

What should matter most as we create the future? Let's put social and environmental consciousness firmly center stage for all decision-making.

Pursuing this offers the possibility of an economy that unleashes creativity, honors human dignity, celebrates the planet's ability to sustain life and engenders happiness.

Governments' efforts should concentrate on those measures that provide maximum social and environmental benefit to society. Future public policy ought to reflect our vision for the kind of world we want. And importantly, businesses will play a key role in achieving social purpose.

As we reimagine the future economy, I propose that we harness the engine of business to achieve social purpose. Let's call this social business.

A social business seeks to maximize social benefit. It is a business created to solve people's problems and address their needs. It is not a nonprofit, but it

doesn't enrich investors either. With whatever profit it generates, investors recoup their original investment and then all subsequent profits are plowed back into the business to create additional social benefit.

Encouraging social businesses doesn't displace government programs that are needed urgently right now. And social businesses will take time to come to fruition and reach scale on par with the impact they can have.

To speed up the entry of social businesses, governments could create Social Business Venture Capital Funds. Special stimulus funds could be allotted to those wanting to take small businesses and transform them into a social business.

Traditional companies could be encouraged to become social businesses themselves, take in social business partners, or establish a fund to seed the emergence of such ventures.

Social business investors and entrepreneurs are everywhere. Too often we don't see them because economic textbooks don't recognize their existence. Economics has become a science for profit maximization. But now is the time for an economics that can deliver a new future for capitalism. These investors and entrepreneurs exist all over the world.

Already there are giant multinational companies like Dannon, big social business funds, many talented CEOs, foundations and others with many years of experience in financing and running global and local social businesses.

Hardcore personal-profit makers have plunged into social business and found it uniquely rewarding.

We must act fast and design our plans right now, even while we are in the thick of the crisis. When the crisis subsides, there will be a stampede of old ideas. Strong cases will be made to derail the new initiatives. Some will protest untested policies. Others will merely seek the familiar. But now is the time for boldness. Let's reimagine what's possible and redesign our world.

If we fail in our response to this crisis and squander the opportunity, we will be heading for a calamity that is many times worse than what the coronavirus brought. This is our chance.

Muhammad Yunus is a 2006 Nobel Peace Laureate and the founder of Grameen Bank.

<https://www.deseret.com/opinion/2020/5/19/21263758/nobel-laureate-muhammad-yunus-pandemic-society-economy-new-normal-going-back-covid-19>



The Senate should focus on aiding global initiatives

June 16, 2020

Great to see a bipartisan group in Congress working on extending business loans ([“Congress hustles to extend spending window as COVID-19 loan deadlines loom”](#) May 27). What about the Senate moving on the recent relief bill passed by the House that offers help for millions of renters about to be homeless, an increase to the SNAP program that is our best weapon against the seemingly unstoppable rise of hunger and help for state and local governments, the leaders in our fight against the virus? The Senate can add funding for global initiatives like Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, both on the front lines against this and other pandemics around the world, protecting us locally from these pandemics coming back to our shores.

So, let’s call, write and virtually visit our senators and ask them to hustle to deal with this crisis of hunger, a looming cascade to homelessness, strengthening the local branches of government that are on the front lines in this battle and aiding the global initiatives that the world depends on.

Willie Dickerson

<https://www.deseret.com/opinion/2020/6/16/21277471/letter-the-senate-should-focus-on-aiding-global-initiatives>



The pandemic has only made homelessness worse

July 16, 2020

If Congress offers no COVID-19 assistance to renters, a humanitarian crises of mass homelessness will not be the only calamity we face. As more renters scrimp to keep their homes, local businesses will lose even more sales and profits. Meanwhile, in just the last couple of months 20%-30% of renters were unable to pay rent and homelessness spreads the virus — and virus fears leave consumers reluctant to get into the economy. In addition, homelessness also makes job-seeking very difficult. On top of all this, the rental sector could collapse.

Homelessness is hard on families and hard on the economy. I urge the Utah delegation to make housing a priority in any upcoming aid package.

Georgia Platts

<https://www.deseret.com/opinion/2020/7/16/21324389/letter-the-pandemic-has-only-made-homelessness-worse>

The Salt Lake Tribune

EITC would help deal with pandemic

July 24, 2020

Even before COVID-19, the U.S. economy was weakening as automation, globalization and the gig economy tossed workers out of good-paying jobs. Unable to find work that supports a family, many had grown depressed, with some turning to opioids to numb the pain, or suicide to end the despair. This is one reason why U.S. life expectancy is now declining for the first time in our history.

Now COVID is straining the economy to a breaking point and Congress will soon consider further measures to help struggling families.

Increasing the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) could help alleviate both short-term and long-term economic stressors. The EITC both ensures that no one who is working for a living is living in poverty, while also boosting local sales and profits. No wonder it has a long history of bipartisan support.

During the coronavirus crisis, the EITC also ensures that essential workers make a living income and it can also serve as a back-to-work bonus.

Granting both short-term and long-term benefits, I urge the Utah delegation to make the EITC a priority in any upcoming aid package.

Georgia Platts

<https://www.sltrib.com/opinion/letters/2020/07/24/letter-eitc-would-help/>

Congress can do better

August 1, 2020

All of us have been affected by the pandemic, but like in every recession, low-income workers have been especially hard-hit by the record-breaking underemployment brought on by this virus. The Senate has finally released details of the HEALS Act, their proposal for another round of stimulus spending. And while it includes doubling of the tax credit for business lunches, it's missing a lot that could help our fellow Americans. What's missing? More food assistance for people most at risk of going hungry and increased tax credits for working families who have had their work hours reduced. These changes could help millions of Americans stay fed and in their homes during this horrible crisis.

Congress can do better. We can do better. Call Sens. Lee and Romney and tell them to increase funding for SNAP (the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) and expand the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit.

Debbie Baskin

<https://www.parkrecord.com/opinion/letters-school-district-is-committed-to-educating-students-during-the-pandemic/>

The Salt Lake Tribune

HEALS Act should help working families

August 2, 2020

All of us have been affected by the pandemic, but like in every recession, low-income workers have been especially hard-hit by the record-breaking underemployment brought on by this virus.

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Debbie Baskin

<https://www.sltrib.com/opinion/letters/2020/08/02/letter-heals-act-should/>

The Salt Lake Tribune

We are at war

August 6, 2020

Our enemy, a tiny virus, has already killed more Americans than were killed in the First World War. More than were killed fighting fascism in Europe during World War II. More than the total lost in Korea, Viet Nam, Iraq, and Afghanistan combined. We have lost 158,000 Americans so far in this fight, yet our leaders dither.

We are in a health crisis, a financial crisis, a human rights crisis and a looming mental health crisis, yet our congressional leaders wring their hands and wait.

Are they waiting for the skies to open? For seagulls to rescue us? Or perhaps for someone else to stand up and accept the blame? Inaction in a crisis is cowardly.

Sen. Romney and Sen. Lee, it is time to stand up and fight for the protections and relief that your constituents need. Push Sen. McConnell (after delaying 81 painful days) to finally bring the House-passed [Heroes Act](#) to a vote. Include immediate protections from eviction, continue the enhanced unemployment and food subsidies and invest in mental health and trauma recovery.

Also please include investment in global pandemic relief. (It is, after all, a world war that cannot be won within our own borders). McConnell's [Coronavirus Response Additional Supplemental Appropriations Act](#) is cruelly insufficient; too little and already too late.

Yes, it is scary to increase our debt, to take out another mortgage on the family house to rescue the family business. And yes, we will all be paying it off for a generation. But if we cower and do nothing, we will lose even more. We are in a war.

Senators, please stand and fight for us. Choosing to not fight during war is worse than cowardice, it is treason.

William E. Cosgrove

<https://www.sltrib.com/opinion/letters/2020/08/06/letter-we-must-see-that/>



The rich get richer and the poor get poorer

August 5, 2020

All of us have been affected by the pandemic, but like in every recession, low-income workers have been especially hard-hit by the record-breaking underemployment brought on by this virus.

The Senate has finally released details of the HEALS Act, their proposal for another round of stimulus spending. And while it includes doubling of the tax credit for business lunches, it's missing a lot that could help our fellow Americans. What's missing? More food assistance for people most at risk of going hungry and increased tax credits for working families who have had their work hours reduced. These changes could help millions of American stay fed and in their homes during this horrible crisis.

Congress can do better. We can do better. Call Senators Lee and Romney and tell them to increase funding for SNAP (the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) and expand the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit.

Debbie Baskin

https://www.standard.net/opinion/letters/letter-the-rich-get-rich-and-the-poor-get-poorer/article_31ed29b2-bddb-57c3-bf8f-c8bc0304fad4.html

The Spectrum.

Food uncertainty and COVID-19

August 25, 2020

This raging pandemic has thrust our children into a world of uncertainty: classes abruptly canceled last spring, a summer without camps or parties or road trips, confusion about the upcoming school year. At least most kids know where their next meal will come from!

But for many low-income families, the next meal only brings more uncertainty. Food banks help, but they don't provide the consistency of a familiar brand of mac-n-cheese or a kid's favorite kind of bread.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) not only allows families to choose familiar foods for their children, it also provides fresh fruits and vegetables that are rarely available at the food pantry.

Unfortunately, SNAP funds often run out at the end of the month, and food pantries are notorious for long-lines and packed waiting rooms at the end of the month. And despite the worst economy in generations and a health-care crisis of massive proportion, Congress left for summer break without negotiating the next stimulus package.

Please join me in calling your member of Congress, demanding that they get back to work and that the next stimulus bill provides a 15% increase to the maximum SNAP allowance.

Debbie Baskin

<https://www.thespectrum.com/story/opinion/2020/08/25/letter-editor-food-uncertainty-and-covid-19/3434010001/>



Kids deserve to know where their next meal will come from

August 25, 2020

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Debbie Baskin

<https://www.deseret.com/opinion/2020/8/25/21399583/letter-kids-deserve-to-know-where-their-next-meal-will-come-from>



The Senate should be helping Americans, not taking a vacation

September 2, 2020

Why is the Senate taking a recess while Americans are dying, being evicted and experiencing hunger in greater and greater numbers? ("[The Senate is on vacation while Americans starve](#)," Aug. 30). The House HEROES Act would have made the last three months and the future a different story if the Senate would have passed it. Call on your senators (Utah's Mitt Romney and Mike Lee) to ask Sen. McConnell to bring the Senate back to pass this legislation and prevent tens of millions of Americans from eviction, hunger and sickness, while helping to follow the Fed's lead to help the economy. Send them this plea by Janet Yellen and Jared Bernstein to take action and add yours and a reminder that you will be voting in November.

Willie Dickerson

<https://www.deseret.com/opinion/2020/9/2/21409336/letter-the-senate-should-be-helping-americans-not-taking-a-vacation>



COVID-19 Quickly Adding Hunger to its List of Health Risks

May 9, 2020

With more than 30 million Americans unemployed, people are being forced to choose between rent and groceries. Meanwhile, food banks are overwhelmed, and missed school meals are threatening the nutritional health of our children. As a volunteer at the ALIVE! food pantry in Alexandria, I've seen personally the growing demand for food.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly Food Stamps) is our nation's first line of defense against hunger. And it is built for crises just like this. Back in 2008, SNAP not only kept food on the table for millions, it helped the economy recover (every \$1 in new SNAP spending creates \$1.50-1.80 in economic activity).

It is ready to do so again, but Congress must act. I urge our members of Congress to help hungry Americans by quickly passing legislation that increases the maximum SNAP benefit by 15 percent until this economic crisis ends. Meanwhile, as good neighbors, support your local food banks.

Nancy Morgan

<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2020/may/09/opinion-letter-editor-covid-19-quickly-adding-hung/>



Housing aid is needed urgently by many

March 27, 2020

Thanks for The Herald's continuing coverage of the Covid-19 crisis ("[Evictions on hold statewide amid COVID-19 outbreak](#)," The Herald, March 19). I am gravely concerned that none of the Covid-19 bills passed so far by Congress, nor Sen. Mitch McConnell's proposal, include provisions to help people experiencing homelessness and those in unstable housing situations. With countless low-income Americans being told to stay home from work, many of them cannot pay rent, though thanks to action by Gov. Jay Inslee, they currently don't face the threat of eviction. In addition, homeless folks are facing unprecedented challenges in staying safe during this crisis.

I urge U.S. Sens. Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell to speak to leadership and ask them to include the following provisions in the final "Phase III" bill: \$5 billion in Emergency Solution Grant funds can help local communities minimize the number of people living in homeless encampments and identify space, including hotels, for isolation and self-quarantine. Another \$5 billion to prevent people from becoming homeless by providing short-term financial assistance and housing stabilization services. Enact a national moratorium on foreclosures and evictions to help renters and homeowners remain stably housed during and after a coronavirus outbreak. Help with rental assistance and eviction prevention (along the lines of the bipartisan Eviction Crisis Act). Low-income renters — living in federally assisted housing or otherwise — will need emergency rental assistance to ensure that they can remain housed during this crisis and not face evictions, and in worst cases, homelessness.

Willie Dickerson

<https://www.heraldnet.com/opinion/housing-aid-is-needed-urgently-by-many/>



Letters: Join the battle

April 8, 2020

Delaney Morgan is right in her letter to the editor titled "Appreciated," (The Daily News, April 1) to praise Gov. Jay Inslee's insightful work in battling the coronavirus.

Gov. Inslee is stepping up again to help food banks provide for more than 1 million people in need in our state. We can join in this work by asking our members of Congress, like Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler and senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell to please include a 15% raise for SNAP (formerly food stamps) benefits in the next relief package.

In addition, a national moratorium on evictions and \$100 billion for renter's relief will help stop the flow to homelessness.

So, call, write or virtually visit those who represent you and ask for this help for those at risk of hunger and homelessness.

Willie Dickerson

https://tdn.com/opinion/letters/letters-join-the-battle/article_e2287cb5-f2f3-5bb7-af21-ea92fe7b8ae5.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share

We can also influence Congress during pandemic

April 12, 2020

Desperate times call for all of us to give what we can. ('Help the helpers: Give to Valley' COVID-19 Response Fund' by Kari Isaacson, Karen Hedine and Brian Hunt, Union-Bulletin, April 3.)

Beyond hand washing, social distancing, staying safe at home and wearing a mask, we can also influence our representatives in Congress to address the most vulnerable: Homeless and renters in the next relief package.

Millions of Americans pay over half their income for rent and too often choose between paying rent or buying food. A 15% increase for the SNAP program, formerly food stamps, a national moratorium on evictions and \$50 billion for emergency rental assistance are needed to avoid a sudden cascade of millions to hunger and homelessness.

Our calls, letters and virtual visits to those who represent us can ensure the safety of millions of Americans during this dangerous pandemic.

Willie Dickerson

https://www.union-bulletin.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/we-can-also-influence-congress-during-pandemic/article_ca983633-3552-5416-a2ba-f92f198a2023.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share



Housing crisis during pandemic

April 17, 2020

The economic fallout of COVID-19 is huge. Millions of low-wage workers have been laid off, and “gig” workers have no gigs, making it virtually impossible to pay the rent or mortgage. This can quickly lead to eviction and homelessness.

Our community has already witnessed the effects of increased homelessness before the coronavirus pandemic struck our country, as reported in The Olympian over the last several months. No one wishes to see the numbers of unsheltered increase.

I am grateful Congress has passed emergency legislation with some help for people experiencing housing instability and homelessness. However, the crisis is far from over. These two statistics from the National Low-Income Housing Coalition say so much about the housing pressure on low income families.

- 70 percent of low-income workers (who often work more than one job and live paycheck to paycheck) spend more than 50 percent of their household income on housing.
- There are currently only 37 affordable homes for every 100 extremely low-income households.

In the next coronavirus response bill, Congress must pass a national moratorium on evictions and foreclosures and provide substantial resources for emergency rental assistance to help struggling workers and families secure stable housing now and beyond this crisis.

Helen Henry

<https://www.theolympian.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article242045271.html>



Help workers pay the rent

April 10, 2020

In an Associated Press article titled “Congress, White House reach high for next virus bill,” President Trump was quoted saying: “We’re going to take good care of our people” (Associated Press, April 6). Two suggestions included in the article to care for our fellow Americans included: more aid through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (food stamps); and more aid for health care.

A third suggestion would be for Congress to address housing needs. With the COVID-19 outbreak, millions of low-wage workers are out of work and can’t pay the rent. And without help, they could quickly face eviction or even homelessness.

I am grateful that Congress has passed legislation to help people suffering in this crisis, but they must prioritize housing by providing no less than \$100 billion for emergency rental assistance and passing a national moratorium on evictions. And looking ahead, Congress should also create a refundable “renters’ tax credit” to help low-income workers pay the rent. These additional resources will help low-income workers weather future economic shocks.

I urge our members of Congress to promptly pass measures to help struggling workers and families secure stable housing during this economic crisis and beyond.

Zelda Foxall

<https://www.columbian.com/news/2020/apr/10/letter-help-workers-pay-the-rent/>

The Seattle Times

Soaring unemployment: Congress must do more

April 20, 2020

Re: [“As rent and mortgage payments come due, Washingtonians wonder how they’ll afford survival during coronavirus”](#) [March 31, Northwest]:

This paints a clear picture of the dire straits many in Washington and across the country face as unemployment surges, with 22 million Americans filing for benefits in the last four weeks. Unfortunately, those living paycheck to paycheck are hardest hit.

The last thing we need is for more individuals and families to experience evictions and homelessness. As Congress considers “Phase 4” COVID-19 legislation, we must urge it to help low-income renters. Specifically, asking that Congress allocates at least \$100 billion in federal money for emergency rental assistance; establishes a national moratorium on evictions until this crisis passes; and creates a refundable “renters tax credit” to help low-income Americans pay their rent. With millions out of work and no money coming in, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is critical in staving off increased hunger and poverty. Congress should allocate a 15% increase in SNAP (food stamps).

Thanks, Congress, for passing some emergency legislation. But more needs to happen immediately. I urge Congress to take swift, decisive actions to help the millions of Americans hovering at the edge of certain financial devastation.

Melessa Rogers

<https://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/soaring-unemployment-congress-must-do-more/>

Kitsap Sun

Congress is making progress on poverty

April 21, 2020

While it may seem popular to criticize Congress currently, there are many members who are stepping up and working on behalf of constituents amid this global coronavirus pandemic. Thank you to Senator Patty Murray and Senator Maria Cantwell for their work to appropriate funding requests.

One of the current issues is with the foreign operations, which represents less than 1% of the total budget. Programs include Child Health, Bilateral Tuberculosis, Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, and Global Partnership for Education. It is this section that has helped fund the World Health Organization, whose job it is to convene leaders to make sure that the response is coordinated and evidence-based, and that there is a truly global response to a global pandemic.

Until recently this section of the budget has passed with full bipartisan approval. People know that a healthy, educated world is a more stable, safer world, with fewer conflicts.

The pandemic is moving more people into poverty across the globe. We cannot afford to undo these valuable programs, which are saving millions of lives, ensuring quality education, strengthening democratic values in fragile states, and building trading partners with emerging economies.

Judy Arbogast

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/opinion/readers/2020/04/21/congress-making-progress-poverty/5169964002/>

Housing relief is vital

April 22, 2020

Good questions about whether or not the housing industry should be working as an essential business. I am grateful for Gov. Inslee's leadership that has provided us with a model reaction to the coronavirus, but of course it isn't perfect, thankfully erring on the side of safety.

Right now, four members of our congressional delegation have proposed \$100 billion package of relief for renters, the Emergency Rental Assistance Act (H.R. 6314) introduced by Rep. Heck. This is a critical initiative, if we are to prevent a cascade into homelessness, as one-third of America's renters were not able to pay rent this month.

Washington's entire delegation recently backed the governor's request for emergency SNAP increases; hopefully the same will happen for rent relief and a moratorium on evictions. Meantime, Governor Inslee is working hard on the next steps in the virus plans, including when to open businesses like the housing industry.

Willie Dickerson

<https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2020/apr/22/housing-relief-vital/>



Rental insecurity: It's time for a national eviction moratorium

April 29, 2020

As we stay in our homes to defeat the pandemic, millions of Americans are unable to pay their rent. The Congressional relief packages have helped businesses, homeowners, and those eligible for unemployment, but not the millions of renters. NPR reported that a landlords' organization said only 69% of renters were able to pay rent this month, compared to 81% at the same time last year.

U. S. Reps. Denny Heck and Derek Kilmer have proposed \$100 billion package of relief for renters, the Emergency Rental Assistance Act (H.R. 6314), cosponsored by Reps. Suzan DelBene and Adam Smith, to fix this problem. Without this solution, the flood gates to homelessness will open. It is time to pass this legislation and put a national moratorium on evictions. Our calls to those who represent us asking for this solution will help make it a reality, assisting millions to be able to shelter in place and we can finally beat this virus.

Willie Dickerson

<http://www.snoho.com/html/letters.html>

The Seattle Times

Inequities: Don't waste opportunity

May 1, 2020

Sad that it took a pandemic to expose the “inequities in education, economic opportunity, criminal justice and public health,” as Tim Burgess writes in his Op-Ed [[“Pandemic exposes our neglect of children, families,”](#) April 24, Opinion].

The pandemic also has shown we can work together to deal with big problems. Our voices: calling, writing and virtual visits to those who represent us at all levels of government can help end these inequities. Starting with support of the Emergency Rental Assistance Act introduced by U.S. Rep. Denny Heck, and co-sponsored by Reps. Derek Kilmer, Adam Smith and Suzan DelBene, which would bring \$100 billion of rent relief to millions of Americans currently choosing between rent and food.

A national moratorium on evictions and a 15% increase in SNAP (food stamp) benefits would also help prevent a spike in homelessness. Following these emergency measures, on to the problems and solutions called for by Burgess. Let's not waste this opportunity to end these shameful inequities that are crippling America's potential.

Willie Dickerson

<https://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/inequities-dont-waste-opportunity/>



Letter: Inequity is the true plague

May 6, 2020

Excellent questions in David Newcomb's letter about short- vs. long-term focus and what kind of a country/world we want to leave for our grandchildren and great-grandchildren ("Focus on Long-term goals," Our Readers' Views, May 1).

In the short term, responding to this pandemic, we need to focus on emergencies: health care, hunger, employment, homelessness, and stopping the spread of disease. This pandemic has shown America's inequities that need to be resolved for the long term: health care, hunger, employment, housing, and the environment.

Right now, we can help by asking Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler, R-Battle Ground, to call for a 15 percent increase in the SNAP program (food stamps), \$100 billion in rent relief, and a moratorium on evictions. At the same time asking Herrera Beutler, along with Sens. Murray and Cantwell, to solve these problems COVID-19 have made so apparent. With our calls, letters, and virtual visits, we can turn around the inequities that are the true plague in America.

Willie Dickerson

<https://www.columbian.com/news/2020/may/06/letter-inequity-is-the-true-plague/>

The Seattle Times

Remember less fortunate: 'We're all in this together'

May 8, 2020

Tim Burgess' Op-Ed "[Pandemic exposes our neglect of children, families](#)" [Opinion, April 24] and the letter to the editor "[Inequities: Don't waste opportunity](#)" [May 1, Opinion] demonstrate how low-income people suffer more during a crisis.

I agree that a moratorium on evictions and a 15% increase in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits would help prevent more homelessness. What would you choose — feeding your family or paying your rent? In our wealthy country, this should not be a choice anyone has to make. Congress should support the Emergency Rental Assistance Act introduced by U.S. Rep. Denny Heck.

We're all dealing with this pandemic. Let's remember we're all Americans, and we're all in this together.

Ronald B. Borovec

<https://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/remember-less-fortunate-were-all-in-this-together/>



Letters: Make a difference

May 14, 2020

Excellent idea to show you care about, respect your fellow citizens and want the shutdown to be over by wearing a mask. (letters to the editor, The Daily News, May 12).

You can also show you care by asking Congresswoman Jamie Herrera Beutler to vote to pass the House relief package that will provide \$100 billion for rent relief, a moratorium on evictions and increase the SNAP benefits by 15% during this pandemic.

Your call, letter or virtual visit to Rep. Herrera Beutler can prevent a flood of homelessness and help one in five children who don't have enough to eat.

Won't you take a few minutes to make a difference?

Willie Dickerson

https://tdn.com/opinion/letters/letters-make-a-difference/article_9ef2d241-fa94-59ed-a74b-b93798a92855.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share

Government cooperation appreciated

May 24, 2020

Wonderful to hear of local government cooperating during the pandemic. ("Local governments working together in pandemic" by R.L. McFarland, Union-Bulletin, May 14.)

Thanks to the U.S. House for passing a relief bill that includes funding for state and local governments who have taken the lead in battling this pandemic. Now, it is the Senate's' turn.

Time to thank our representatives for this bill that includes housing and hunger relief, another round of payments to individuals, and testing funding.

Also, asking Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers to ask senators from her party (in the majority) to make sure this bill passes: Lives depend on it. Our calls, letters, and virtual visits to our members of Congress help them understand and pass legislation that matters to everyday Americans.

Willie Dickerson

https://www.union-bulletin.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/government-cooperation-appreciated/article_248fbac6-033c-52f2-acb2-b2e58c84ea55.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND REVIEW

Leaders in Congress must hear our voices

May 26, 2020

To the editor:

Perfect timing to suggest we spend money to save lives instead of other actions, or little action at all. ("Spend money to save lives, not take them," by Pat Wolff, Bainbridge Island Review, May 5)

Right now, there are proposals in Congress to deal with the housing crisis that would help cut off the flow to homelessness; to increase the funding for SNAP (formerly food stamps) to battle hunger; and to increase our pledge to fight pandemics with extra money for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria, and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. Both of these organizations are well positioned and working hard to battle global pandemics, including COVID-19.

So, speak up to the members of our Washington state Congressional delegation, champions of this life-saving work, asking for follow through and double their efforts to keep us safe and bring equity to America.

Willie Dickerson

<https://www.bainbridgereview.com/letters/leaders-in-congress-must-hear-our-voices-letter-to-the-editor/>

Letter: Newhouse should push for renter relief

May 31, 2020

To the editor — I was born in Yakima and grew up in Sunnyside. That is why I was saddened to learn that Yakima County has the highest per capita COVID-19 rate of any county on the West Coast. Forty percent of American workers earning less than \$40,000 per year have lost their jobs. Most do not receive paid sick leave. It is so important that those who are sick, exposed to COVID-19, or unemployed don't lose their homes.

As a results volunteer, I am asking U.S. Rep. Dan Newhouse to support legislation that would provide a national one-year moratorium on evictions and \$100 billion in emergency rental assistance. Emergency rental assistance would not only stave off homelessness among the sick and unemployed, it would also help landlords. The investments they have made would be protected in this time of economic upheaval. In the long term, I would like to encourage Newhouse to support a refundable renter's tax credit.

If we act now to help our fellow Americans keep their homes, our leadership and compassion will be the true legacies of COVID-19.

Lisa Still

https://www.yakimaherald.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter-newhouse-should-push-for-renter-relief/article_7b399528-912e-568c-9b14-99f65200dd6d.html

It is time to fill the cracks that millions of Americans are falling through

June 1, 2020

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, more questions arise: What can we learn from this virus? What positive changes can come from this pandemic? It is a good time for reflection and action as we shelter at home, grateful for those on the front lines. Thank you first responders, grocery, drug store, and other essential businesses that supply our basic needs.

Perhaps most important, the virus has shown up the cracks in our system, where millions of Americans fall through, those unable to pay rent, the hungry, and the homeless. Often these folks are working, many more than one job. Fortunately, as Leonard Cohen said, "There is a crack in everything; that's how the light gets in."

It is time to fill these cracks with the light of hope. Initiatives in Congress addressed this work. In the House, Rep. Denny Heck introduced the Emergency Rental Assistance Act (H.R. 6314): \$100 billion package of relief for renters. In addition, a national moratorium on evictions is needed to prevent a spike in homelessness. Also needed is an increase to the SNAP (food stamp) program of 15% to ease the current burden of hunger and end the question of "eat or pay rent?" Recently, the House passed a relief bill that included these aspects. It's time to ask your representatives to support these initiatives of hope and urge their colleagues in the Senate to pass this relief package.

This pandemic has shown us that it only takes one person becoming infected to spread the virus to all of us. This truth emphasizes the reality that each individual in our country, and in our world, matters. No one can be left behind. This plays out on the global stage as well. Every country is a part of

the battle against this global pandemic. Fortunately, successful initiatives like the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria, and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance are on the front lines helping developing countries to bring COVID-19 under control. Their proven experience in cutting deaths from the world's biggest killers (AIDS, TB, and Malaria) by over 30%, and cutting child deaths by 50% thanks to vaccinations, gives them credibility for continued funding from around the world, including America.

Although America spends less than one percent of its budget for foreign aid, Congress understands the importance of these initiatives and has consistently overridden the president's call for cuts to foreign aid, ensuring the U.S. does keep its pledge to fully fund these life-saving initiatives. This effort continues as Reps. Barbara Lee and Martha Roby created a sign-on letter calling for an additional \$1 billion for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria, to be included in any Phase 4 COVID-19 legislation. This special funding will keep the Global Fund battling global pandemics, including COVID-19. Asking our members of Congress to sign on to this letter will create the political will to make sure this and future battles are successful.

As Ebola, Zika and now COVID-19 have shown us, if we don't fight these pandemics globally, they will threaten us locally. Our calls, letters, and virtual visits to our representatives and senators can help pass these rescue measures and begin the fundamental changes in our system to create hope where there once was very little. The good news is these cracks were part of the system we created in this country, so that means we, the people, have the ability to create a new system that works for every American.

Willie Dickerson is a RESULTS volunteer in Snohomish, currently a member of the RESULTS Board, and most recent winner of the 2019 Cameron Duncan Media Award (first non-journalist to win).

<https://tacomaweekly.com/guest-editorial/it-is-time-to-fill-the-cracks-that-millions-of-americans-are-falling-through/>

Tri-City Herald

Our ill workers need federal help

June 4, 2020

Two counties in Rep. Dan Newhouse's U.S. House district have the highest per capita rates of Covid-19 on the West Coast — Yakima and Franklin counties. Forty percent of workers earning under \$40,000 per year are unemployed. Most do not have paid sick leave. It is vitally important that sick and unemployed workers don't also lose their homes.

I would like to urge Rep. Newhouse to support legislation that would enact a national one-year moratorium on evictions and provide \$100 billion in emergency rental assistance. It is important to everyone that sick or exposed workers be able to recover without the threat of homelessness guiding their decisions. Emergency rental assistance is good for landlords too. It protects the investments they have made during this time of economic upheaval.

I encourage Rep. Newhouse to provide compassionate leadership that prevents his most vulnerable constituents from becoming homeless during this crisis.

LuAnne Wiles

<https://www.tri-cityherald.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article243323616.html>



Peaceful protests: speak out

Wonderful to see the people of Snohomish speak out against racism. First on Saturday in the streets, later on Monday, and finally speaking up at the [Tuesday City Council meeting](#).

The message was clear: end racism in America, Black Lives Matter. Time to continue to use our voices, this time with Congress. The recent COVID-19 relief bill passed by the House addresses the need of low income Americans, all too often people of color, including an increase in the SNAP program to fight hunger, relief for renters to prevent an even greater increase in homelessness, and funding for state and local governments on the frontlines protecting us in the pandemic. In addition, legislation in the House (HR 40) and the Senate (S 1083) sets up a commission to help address America's underlying racism, examine and accept the truth, so we can move forward with healing and reparations. As always, our voices matter, our calls, letters, and virtual visits to our members of Congress can create the political will to take action. Congresswoman DelBene helped pass the relief bill and is already a cosponsor of House bill 40 but hearing from us will help make these initiatives priorities.

There is plenty we can do before voting in November, why not add your voice? Not sure how? RESULTS (results.org) has an active chapter in Snohomish, and this month's virtual International Conference (pay what you can) will help you become an effective advocate.

Willie Dickerson

<http://snoho.com/html/letters.html>



Letters: On the front lines

June 23, 2020

Cowlitz County's budget deficit is being echoed around the country in state and local governments. ("Early estimates project \$4.2M COVID-related deficit in county budget" by Mallory Gruben, The Daily News, June 17.)

The latest COVID-relief bill passed by the House provides aid to state and local governments, and includes relief for renters, along with an increase for SNAP benefits to help battle America's skyrocketing hunger crisis.

Our calls, letters and speaking up at town halls can help these initiatives be included in whatever the Senate offers. So, speak up and vote to help the hungry, the homeless, and our state and local governments who have been on the front lines to protect us from this deadly virus.

Willie Dickerson

https://tdn.com/opinion/letters/letters-on-the-front-lines/article_d687a046-f08e-5759-acfb-def5eafe22a9.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share

Kitsap Sun

Speaking up can lead to policy changes

June 28, 2020

Editor David Nelson's Sunday column about hearing more voices keeps the Sun moving forward as an example to other newspapers.

Voices of protest get attention. Voices in the newspaper help influence local, state, and national governments. According to a study by the Congressional Management Foundation, constituent voices that reach our members of Congress via phone, letters, and visits have the most influence.

This is a time in our history like no other, when first understanding and then demanding can lead to equity for all in our country. Legislation in Congress is waiting, the Hero's Act passed by the House helps renters about to be evicted. Our voices are necessary to help the Senate pass it. Police reform is now in the process, having passed the House, our voices can make sure it is meaningful. The bigger picture of racism is being addressed by legislation proposed in the House (HR 40) and the Senate (S 1083) to set up a commission on racism, accept the truth, and move forward with healing and reparations.

Together, our voices will help this legislation pass and bring about these much-needed changes.

Willie Dickerson

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/opinion/readers/2020/06/28/speaking-up-can-lead-policy-changes/3274957001/>



Be inspired, speak up

July 7, 2020

Thanks to Paul Dodds for the amazing story of the University of Missouri football team who protested the death of George Floyd and then registered to vote. ("[Be heard in streets, and at polls](#)," Our Readers' Views, June 28) Protesting and voting are two important ways to influence our government. The third is speaking up to our representatives to encourage positive legislation. This is how we can get action from the Senate on the HEROES Act that passed the House that calls for relief for millions of American renters who are about to lose their homes. Democracy works when we do our part. Let's be inspired by the football players and speak up!

Willie Dickerson

<https://www.columbian.com/news/2020/jul/07/letter-be-inspired-speak-up/>



The legacy of COVID-19

July 16, 2020

Will homelessness and evictions be the legacies of COVID-19? If Congress does not act soon, they will be.

The virus exposed America's housing situation for what it is — a full-blown crisis. [Since 1960, renters' median earnings have gone up 5 percent while rents have risen by 61 percent.](#) Even with unemployment insurance, millions of workers are still falling behind in paying their rent, putting low-income renters under the threat of eventually losing their residences.

Yes, Congress has been provided some rental assistance and many states have enacted a pause on evictions, but it is not enough. In many places, eviction holds are set to expire in August just as unemployment benefits dry up. Some in Congress want to take a "wait and see" attitude, but patience is a luxury only a privileged few can afford.

I appreciate the legislative efforts of U.S. Rep. Denny Heck and encourage our other members of Congress to push for quick passage of a COVID-19 bill that includes an additional \$100 billion for emergency rental assistance, and a national moratorium on evictions. Past due rents are accumulating, and people who have lost income due to COVID-19 are not out of the woods yet.

If we act now to help our fellow Americans keep their existing housing options, compassionate action will keep a bad situation from getting worse. This could be the true legacy of COVID-19.

Carol Kraege

<https://www.theolympian.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article244234097.html>

Congress must act now to prevent evictions

July 27, 2020

Millions of low-income renters face the threat of eviction and homelessness unless Congress acts soon.

COVID-19 has cost more than 40 million Americans their jobs. When people cannot work, they cannot pay the rent.

As local eviction bans expire this summer, low-income renters will owe thousands of dollars in back rent. Without help, these renters will be forced out of their homes in the middle of pandemic.

The House has passed several bills that would enact a national moratorium on evictions and provide \$100 billion to help low-income renters pay the rent. This will help millions of renters stay housed, and their landlords get paid, until the economy improves. It is time for the Senate to do the same.

Congress must act now to prevent millions from being evicted. I urge our members of Congress to push for quick passage of a COVID-19 bill that includes at least \$100 billion for emergency rental assistance and a national moratorium on evictions.

Mark Thompson

https://www.union-bulletin.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/congress-must-act-now-to-prevent-evictions/article_18313f35-6fd3-502d-974a-ee5dc03a5fb.html



Time to call

July 31, 2020

It is a good thing our state and local governments stepped in when the White House didn't take the lead against the coronavirus. (The Daily Newsletters to the editor, July 26, 2020)

Now they need relief, along with relief for renters, the hungry, local health departments and other Covid-19-related problems covered in the House Heroes Act.

After waiting two months, the Senate is finally weighing in, unfortunately, they seem to have mostly forgotten who needs the help. Time to call, tweet, email and Facebook your senators, asking them to include these highlights from the House bill and add \$20 billion (less than one percent) support for the Global Fund, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, to help more than half the world battle this pandemic. After all, our only hope is to beat Covid globally to protect us locally.

Make your voice heard.

Willie Dickerson

https://tdn.com/opinion/letters/letters-time-to-call/article_f90e15ff-b586-5183-b602-b2c9953de95a.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share



Let Congress hear your concerns on pandemic relief bill

July 31, 2020

Renters and landlords face a dire situation after the CARES Act protection runs out. ("[Eviction moratorium uncertainty means preparing for anything](#)," The Herald, July 12) Fortunately, the House passed \$100 billion in rent relief and an evictions moratorium. Unfortunately, the Senate ignored this legislation that also provided an increase in the SNAP program for the hungry, \$75 billion for local public health departments across the country, and funding for State and local governments who are leading the battle against COVID-19.

While the Senate probably won't pass the Heroes Act, there is still hope for relief before Congress adjourns for the August recess. We can ask our representative and Sens. Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell to weigh in with leadership, asking these important aspects of relief be a part of any new negotiated package. Our calls, letters, and even virtual visits can underline the importance of rent relief, eviction moratorium, the increase for SNAP, the funding for health departments, and the support of frontline local and state governments. Otherwise, we will be taking many steps back, with an increase in hunger, homelessness, and COVID deaths.

Your voice now and your vote in the fall can make all of the difference.

Willie Dickerson

<https://www.heraldnet.com/opinion/let-congress-hear-your-concerns-on-pandemic-relief-bill/>

Speak up for change

August 10, 2020

Joe Heller's "toon" for August 4th succinctly shows part of the great debate in Congress surrounding the next relief package. (Spokesman-Review, August 4, 2020)

Also appropriate is primary election day and the votes of the people today (Aug. 4) in five states. But we can also use our voices to help break the deadlock that will end in 19-23 million Americans facing evictions by the end of September, millions more hungry families, and bankrupt state and local governments around the country.

The House passed the Heroes Act over two months ago, but the Senate has been slow to follow. Contacting our members of the Senate and encouraging our friends around the country to do the same can create the political will to pass relief to avoid these tragedies.

Rep. McMorris Rodgers can reach out to her party's senators to encourage them to include the rent relief, eviction moratorium, continuation of the \$600 unemployment, along with relief dollars for local health departments, and state and local governments, that were all part of the House bill. Our voices matter right now, as will our votes again in November.

Take a moment to speak up to help pass this compassionate legislation.

Willie Dickerson

<https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2020/aug/10/speak-up-for-change/>



Without action by Congress, wave of eviction looms

August 14, 2020

Millions of low-income renters face the threat of eviction and homelessness unless Congress acts soon.

COVID-19 has cost more 40 million Americans their jobs. When people cannot work, they cannot pay the rent. As local eviction bans expire this year, low-income renters will owe thousands of dollars in back rent. Without help, these renters will be forced out of their homes in the middle of pandemic.

The House has passed several bills that would enact a national moratorium on evictions and provide \$100 billion to help low-income renters pay the rent. This will help millions of renters stay housed, and their landlords get paid, until the economy improves. It is time for the Senate to do the same.

Congress must act now to prevent millions from being evicted. I urge our members of Congress to push for quick passage of a COVID-19 bill that includes at least \$100 billion for emergency rental assistance and a national moratorium on evictions.

Amy Harmala

<https://www.heraldnet.com/opinion/without-action-by-congress-wave-of-evictions-looms/>



Letter Congress hear you

August 14, 2020

Democracy is certainly strengthened by our participation, and an increase in voter turnout is good news for America ("[Cheers and Jeers: Democracy requires participation](#)," The Columbia, Aug. 8). Speaking up to those we elect is another opportunity to strengthen our democracy.

The current failure of Congress to pass COVID-19 relief is unconscionable; 19-23 million Americans face eviction if nothing is done, hunger is increasing, and state and local governments along with public health departments are going broke on the front lines against the pandemic.

Call, write, and tweet those who represent you and demand they come together to pass relief. Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler, R-Battle Ground, who recently spoke of her bipartisan work, could lobby her Senate counterparts to compromise and pass relief and is more likely to do so if she hears from constituents. Our voices can help turn this tide: use yours.

Willie Dickerson

<https://www.columbian.com/news/2020/aug/14/letter-let-congress-hear-you/>



Demand rent relief

September 3, 2020

California Gov. Gavin Newsom's eviction moratorium will provide "a bridge to a more permanent solution" from Congress. (California governor signs eviction bill amid virus by Adam Beam, The Daily News, Sept. 1, 2020.)

When Congress returns this month, they must pass a \$100 billion rent relief and an eviction moratorium to prevent a spike in homelessness like this country has never seen. Ask your members of Congress, Rep. Jamie Herrera Beutler and Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell, to speak to leadership to make sure this is included in the next relief package so that 30 to 40 million Americans don't become homeless.

Our calls, emails, tweets and virtual visits can make all the difference.

Willie Dickerson

https://tdn.com/opinion/letters/letters-demand-rent-relief/article_c0c6c97e-0e9c-543c-802d-a85f4a8425a7.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share



Pandemic Relief: Demand Senate Action

September 9, 2020

To the Editor:

Thanks to the Snohomish City Council for reaching out with Congressional funding to help residents in difficult times. ('Snohomish sets up utility bill support and rent relief program city residents' by Jake Berg, Snohomish Tribune, August 26, 2020) Thanks also to Reps. Larsen and DelBene for passing the legislation that made this possible and the Heroes Act back in May, that would have continued relief for the millions suffering from the pandemic and the economic challenges it brought.

Unfortunately, even the efforts of Senators Murray and Cantwell could not convince Senate Leader McConnell to bring it up and pass it in the Senate. Since we are blessed to live in a democracy, we can raise our voices with calls, letters, and tweets demanding Senate Action: time to come back from your recess and stop the needless deaths, hunger, and homelessness that are resulting from your inaction.

Willie Dickerson

<http://www.snoho.com/html/letters.html>

Renters need more help from Congress

April 12, 2020

e recent article "[GOP's slimmed-down virus relief package fails to advance in Senate](#)" highlights the continued partisan approaches that are hurting our vulnerable communities.

Millions of low-income renters are struggling to make ends meet. While it is great that the Centers for Disease Control is declaring a halt to evictions for the rest of the year, emergency rental assistance is still needed for both renters and small landlords. According to conservative economist Mark Zandi, tenants already owe nearly \$25 billion in back rent, which could reach \$69.8 billion by the end of the year.

Wisconsin's U.S. Sens. Ron Johnson, R-Oshkosh, and Tammy Baldwin, D-Madison, need to lead a bipartisan effort to develop protections for families and landlords. Financial support will help renters avoid back rent they can't afford and help small landlords who still must pay their mortgage.

Some in Congress believe the additional \$600 per week in unemployment benefits encouraged people not to work. A study by Yale University found the extra financial support in earlier COVID bills did not disincentivize work. Other independent studies have supported these findings.

It's time for Congress and President Trump to resume negotiations now and enact a robust COVID-19 deal that includes \$100 billion in emergency rental assistance.

Linda Syth

https://madison.com/wsj/opinion/letters/renters-need-more-help-from-congress---linda-syth/article_266c09ac-0f32-5c28-8d53-63f89197bc3e.html

Congress needs to act now

August 24, 2020

From April through July, more than 400 West Virginians reached out to my office to sign up for contact tracing and coronavirus pandemic response, a course developed in collaboration between the West Virginia University School of Public Health and the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources Bureau for Public Health.

In the midst of chaos and death, these ordinary people saw a need in their communities and set out to do what they could to help during this crisis.

Because of my experience working with these volunteers, it comes as no surprise to me that most Americans have the same outlook in fighting COVID-19 on a national and international scale. An NPR/Ipsos poll released earlier this month found broad support among Americans for a single, national strategy to address the pandemic and more aggressive measures to contain it.

But what good is wanting to help if our legislators will not work together? I agree with Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., that Congress' inability to come to any agreement on a supplemental coronavirus relief package is embarrassing.

Millions of low-income renters are under threat of eviction and homelessness in the United States. COVID-19 has cost millions of Americans their jobs. Faced with a loss of income, how are so many going to pay the rent? The Aspen Institute estimates that, without action from Congress, more than 30 million low-income renters are at risk of losing their homes. This includes our friends and neighbors here in West Virginia.

The pandemic is not only affecting people directly, it is undermining years of progress in fighting other diseases throughout the world, like tuberculosis

and HIV/AIDS. Millions of children are missing out on life-saving vaccines, and food insecurity and starvation also are rising fast.

A poll conducted by the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition in April found that more than three-quarters of Americans support the inclusion of funding for the State Department, the U.S. Agency for International Development, or USAID, and other agencies to fight COVID-19 globally to limit its spread to the United States.

Yet, in the face of dire need and overwhelming bipartisan voter support, Congress will not move.

This is unacceptable. We need a strong response now from our lawmakers in Washington, D.C., to deal with the immediate crisis of COVID-19 and strengthen health care systems worldwide. I urge Sens. Manchin and Shelley Moore Capito, R-W.Va., along with Reps. McKinley, Mooney and Miller, all R-W.Va., to do all they can to break the current stalemate and support an emergency deal that includes:

- \$100 billion in emergency rental assistance
- A national moratorium on evictions
- \$4 billion over two years for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria
- \$4 billion for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance
- \$2 billion for anti-hunger efforts, including \$500 million for nutrition

Joanna DiStefano is the program manager for the Global Engagement Office at WVU Health Sciences and leader of the WVU chapter of RESULTS.

https://www.wvgazette.com/opinion/op_ed_commentaries/joanna-distefano-congress-needs-to-act-now-opinion/article_aa546db7-2344-5536-ad3e-12f3ce8b01de.html



Ask Congress to provide emergency rental assistance, prevent evictions

May 14, 2020

Recently, I've become involved with RESULTS, "a movement of passionate, committed everyday people who use their voices to influence political decisions that will bring an end to poverty." I am now learning how critical housing is as the first step out of poverty.

We all can imagine what the COVID-19 pandemic is doing to the impoverished and those on the margins who are left unemployed and cannot pay their monthly rent or mortgage. Please ask your members of Congress to include \$100 billion in emergency rental assistance and eviction prevention in phase four of COVID-19 relief legislation.

Low-income renters need emergency rental assistance to ensure that they can remain housed during this health and economic crisis, and not face eviction, or in worst cases, homelessness. It ultimately will cost the country even more if the need for this rental assistance is ignored or denied.

Jody Gostas

https://www.wyomingnews.com/coronavirus/ask-congress-to-provide-emergency-rental-assistance-prevent-evictions/article_f7dc8b55-21c1-5f3b-bd7e-240ea3d0fa8a.html



Congress must act quickly to provide relief for renters

August 5, 2020

I don't want to be an alarmist, but if Congress doesn't act before their August recess to provide emergency rent relief and reinstate the eviction moratorium, Wyoming could be approaching 35,000 more homeless people in the state by the end of September.

The U.S. Census counts 280,291 housing units in the state. Of those, 69.4% report as owner occupied, or 194,522 housing units.

We counted only 230,630 households in the state (Are there really that many vacant housing units?), which means we must have 36,108 rental units occupied: 230,630 households minus 194,522 owner occupied households. To allow for things like base housing, let's call it 35,000, which could still be high, but let's use that number.

The July 15 U.S. Census Household Pulse Survey tells us that 44% of Wyoming rental households are facing rental shortfall and the possibility of eviction by the end of September. That means 15,400 households, 44% of 35,000.

The Census also tells us that the average household in Wyoming is 2.5 people. Multiply 15,400 by 2.5, and we are looking at 38,500 people homeless by the end of September. I acknowledge that the figure is probably high, which is why I estimated 35,000 at the start. Either figure gives insight into the scale of the problem.

Median gross rent in Wyoming was \$843 as of 2018. One local nonprofit providing homeless aid tells us it costs them \$1,500 per month or more per family to provide assistance. Turning people out of their homes, onto the streets and into the care of charitable organizations is no way to save money!

That is just renters. I have no figures to tell me how many homeowners are facing mortgage arrears and the threat of eviction.

People without homes are obviously more susceptible to COVID-19 and other diseases – and more likely to spread them. Which part of our towns should they camp in? Where will they bathe or use the toilet? Which school do homeless children attend? Will they have access to online school if we end up there again this school year? Or will these vulnerable children be the ones to bring COVID-19 to the school?

Landlords have bills to pay, too. Maybe they have a mortgage of their own on the rental property and stand to lose their investment. Do you remember bailing out banks when people couldn't pay their mortgages in 2008? Of course, bank bailouts don't give families a place to live.

How much easier and cheaper just to keep people in their homes! The National Low-Income Housing Coalition estimates that we can do that nationally for \$16 billion a month – \$100 billion for the next several months.

I could write more, encouraging a 15% increase in SNAP benefits to help struggling, unemployed or underemployed families, for example. But, for now, I am just asking you to call Sens. Barrasso and Enzi and Rep. Cheney and urge them to speak to their leadership and the negotiators at work on COVID-19 relief funding. Tell them \$100 billion in emergency rental relief and an eviction moratorium are needed immediately, and that Wyoming will make good use of its share.

If the economy springs back, and we don't need to spend it all, wonderful! But if we need it and it isn't there, we are condemning ourselves to another plague – a plague of homelessness.

Ann Erdmann is the group leader for RESULTS Cheyenne, a grassroots movement of people advocating for policies that will bring an end to poverty.

Email: annerdmann291@gmail.com.

https://www.wyomingnews.com/coronavirus/erdmann-congress-must-act-quickly-to-provide-relief-for-renters/article_85d029ae-76d7-5ef8-aba0-b8b3af128a85.html