

September 18, 2020

Governor Ned Lamont
State Capitol
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Lamont,

We want to thank you for issuing Executive Order number 7X, creating an eviction moratorium, and Executive Order 7DDD, which extended the moratorium.

These Executive Orders, in combination with the efforts of the Department of Housing (DOH) under the leadership of Commissioner Seila Mosquera-Bruno, helped workers who became unemployed due to the pandemic by protecting them and their families from homelessness. These measures also supported landlords who would have otherwise lost tenants and their source of income.

You previously allocated \$20 million of Federal CARES ACT funding the Temporary Rental Housing Assistance Program (TRHAP). Other states provided more funding to equivalent rental assistance programs including Vermont (\$50 million), Montana (\$50 million), New Jersey (\$100 million), Pennsylvania (\$150 million), and Illinois (\$396 million). This program has been a lifeline for tenants struggling to pay rent and for landlords struggling to make mortgage payments. There is an active need for further funding for rental assistance and landlord support.

The urgency with which our residents need these programs is clear; the backlog that resulted from the number of applications to THRAP required DOH to pause intake since Friday, August 28th. We request that you allocate another \$10,000,000 to the Temporary Rental Housing Assistance Program (THRAP). We also feel it necessary for the state to reassess and ease the requirements for tenants to access homelessness prevention resources and for landlords to access bankruptcy protection.

Thank you for your leadership on these critical issues.

Sincerely,

State Senator Saud Anwar
State Senator Derek Slap
State Senator Alexandra Kasser
State Senator Marilyn Moore
State Senator Will Haskell
State Senator Mary Abrams
State Senator Doug McCrory
State Senator Gary Winfield
State Senator Julie Kushner