Testimony: I am writing to express my strong support of the Emergency Renter and Homeowner Protection Act, HB5574. In this time both renters and home owners alike need to be focusing on the health and wellbeing of their families. We can prevent undue stress and emotional strain by the threat of homelessness. Rent and mortgage payments are contracts that depend on peoples’ ability to pay. As people across our communities are experiencing surprise, extended unemployment, we need emergency legislation to keep them in their homes. We know that banks, corporations, and large property owners DO NOT care for the wellbeing of communities. We saw the collapse of our economy in 2008, and we see it again in inflated property taxes in Illinois, as well as the increased deference to luxury, high-cost development in all communities. That is why as activists and elected representatives we must continue to represent the people in our communities, not the profit interests of private institutions.