**HB5574 HA1 SUPPORT Cathy Shanley**

Good Evening –

My name is Cathy Shanley. I’m a retired widow and I live in the Edgewater community of Chicago.

A whole lot of people need the protections that HB5574 HA1 offers. It is personal to me and it is also a matter of public health. People need stability in housing, health care, nutrition, etc.

I do not want to get sick and die from Covid – so I’m in favor of the current shelter-in-place. But a person needs to have a home in which to take shelter. Or there is no such thing as shelter-in-place.

I used to live in the Uptown community but I got priced out of there. There was no limit on the rent increases. The building was owned by a large real estate company and the vast majority of tenants were relatively well-off suburban young adults who rented in the building for a year and then moved to wherever else they wanted to stay – like a rotating door. Since the rent in that bldg. went up every year so did the rents in the surrounding bldgs. Company landlords collected whatever rent they could get away with. Long term Uptown residents got priced out.

Now I’m in Edgewater with a mortgage. Typically I would be working part time to supplement my retirement but I can’t do that now – not with Covid. And I am worried. What if I have to spend too much of my retirement savings to pay my mortgage? Then I won’t have the money for needed dental work. I have friends who might ‘lose’ their homes because they can’t pay their mortgage right now. They didn’t do anything wrong but they’ll suffer the consequences.

People have ‘lost’ their jobs to Covid. We cannot have a situation where regular people will also ‘lose’ their homes – whether rented or mortgaged. We have paid plenty of taxes and we have spent our money in our communities and we have created jobs. Big corporations do not need our money – we need our money.

Thank you,

Cathy Shanley

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