



## MAYOR DAVID J. NARKEWICZ

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The Honorable John F. Keenan  
Senate Chair, Joint Committee on Housing

The Honorable James Arciero  
House Chair, Joint Committee on Housing

Submitted via email to [luke.oroark@mahouse.gov](mailto:luke.oroark@mahouse.gov)

**Re: COVID-19 Housing Equity (H.1434/S.891)**

Dear Chair Keenan, Chair Arciero, and members of the Committee,

I am pleased to submit this testimony on behalf of the City of Northampton in support of H.1434/S.891, "An act to prevent COVID-19 evictions and foreclosures and promote an equitable housing recovery" and to urge to move quickly to favorably report out and then pass this bill.

This is a time for state action. Our community, similar to every other city or town across the Commonwealth, does not possess the authority to protect our tenants and homeowners from eviction and foreclosure during this ongoing pandemic. But we see the consequences every day. We see increasing numbers of people living on our streets or in encampments. We see our families worried about keeping their children safe from COVID-19, preparing them for another year of uncertainty in school. We see our small local business owners – the core of our downtown economy – struggling to stay afloat, trying to pay their workers and their own mortgages during this time of great financial strain.

I ask you to pass this bill to support housing and economic stability for our city. It will allow time for the federal rental assistance to get to the households who need it and the landlords who depend upon it. It will protect our homeowners to stave off a foreclosure crisis and allow for the federal homeowner resources to get into our community. It will protect the over 200 households in our county who currently face an eviction action from the continued trauma of threatened homelessness during this COVID-19 spike. State action is the only recourse to keep our vulnerable community members safely housed.

Please act quickly to favorably report the COVID-19 Housing Equity bill (H.1434/S.891). Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Narkewicz".

David J. Narkewicz, Mayor