

CAPITOL OFFICE
247-E STRATTON
BUILDING
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62706



La Shawn K. Ford
State Representative
8th District

April 8, 2020

The Honorable JB Pritzker
Office of the Governor
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor,

I am proud to stand among you as an elected official of our great state of Illinois. At this time, when our national health may see its worst in generations, we in Illinois are determined to show our best. The United States had many economic indications before the 2008 housing crisis hit the country. The signs were ignored and caused great devastation to our financial stability, left many families homeless, and many landlords lost their lifetimes savings. Signs are before us again with the COVID-19 pandemic. This time, we are encouraged by what we have learned from our history.

I am urging all levels of government in Illinois to immediately take action to protect the landlords and tenants in this state. We must create a state economic package to preserve the housing economy and prevent a repeat of the 2008 increase in homelessness, foreclosures, and devastation to our communities in Illinois. We must stabilize our housing market, and we can.

I urge you to call on the Illinois Housing Development Authority to form a COVID-19 Housing Task-force of the housing units of our Cities and Counties governments to deal with this crisis immediately. These efforts will supplement those already in progress, like those including SBA Disaster Loan Protections and the forgiveness resources available.

We must tap into the state's unique resources developed over the decades, from reallocating TIF funds, utilizing state department investments and holdings, and providing direct assistance to landlords and their tenants, to prevent an almost certain economic fall-out that may plague other states that do not act as swiftly.

I believe Illinois has strong leadership and experts that we can tap into to help us respond urgently to the looming housing crisis in Illinois. The school district in this state can't afford another housing set back and the impact it will have on the children in this state. The state can't afford a piecemeal approach and know that we must respond big. Now is the time for our best.

The most straightforward way within our combined municipal and state power is to provide for the stabilization of neighborhood housing.

Please contact me for any further information about this letter at email repford@lashawnford.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'LSF', written over a thin horizontal line.

La Shawn K. Ford
State Representative--Eighth District