

July xx, 2012

The Honorable (list of Representatives in the state)

Dear Representatives XXX:

We, the undersigned organizations located in your state, are writing in strong support of H.R. 3619, the Permanently Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act. We urge you to co-sponsor this critical legislation and work to ensure that it is enacted into law as quickly as possible.

According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, approximately 40% of families affected by foreclosure rent their homes. Prior to the May 2009 enactment of the Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act (PTFA), these tenants could be evicted from their homes with as little as a few days notice. Thanks to the PTFA, bona fide tenants can now stay in their homes for the remainder of their lease or for at least 90 days.

The PTFA was initially set to sunset at the end of 2012. The sunset date was extended through the end of 2014 by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. However, given the ongoing nature of the foreclosure crisis the undersigned organizations strongly urge that the PTFA be made permanent to ensure that renters continue to be protected, no matter when a foreclosure occurs.

Representative Keith Ellison (D-MN) has introduced legislation, the Permanently Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act (H.R. 3619) that would make the PTFA a permanent law. H.R. 3619 would address the ongoing impact of the foreclosure crisis on renters by removing the sunset date, ensuring that renters have a basic level of federal protections irrespective of when their residence is foreclosed on. The legislation would also add a private right of action for tenants whose rights under the PTFA have been violated. It is important that this enforcement mechanism be added to better ensure compliance with the law.

We urge you to co-sponsor this critical legislation that will greatly help many of your constituents, and help ensure neighborhood stability during the ongoing foreclosure crisis.

We sincerely thank you for your consideration of our views on H.R. 3619, and hope that you will co-sponsor this greatly needed legislation.

Sincerely,

The undersigned organizations: