COHHIO
Coalition on Homelessness
and Housing in Ohio

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COHHIO Statement on Justice O'Connor's Call for Eviction Moratoriums

Bill Faith, executive director of the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio, issued the following statement in response to Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor's recommendation for local courts to suspend eviction proceedings in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Evictions put vulnerable people at even higher risk of exposure to the coronavirus as they double-up with other families or go to homeless shelters, which are already dangerously overburdened. We support a pause in legal eviction proceedings, but it won't let people off the hook for paying the rent. And it won't stop evictions that take place outside the court process, and it won't prevent a flood of evictions once the eviction pause ends.

Even before the pandemic, Ohio had nearly 400,000 households spending over half their income on rent. Now many of them – like 160,000 food service employees – are out of work, with no chance of being able to pay rent at the end of the month.

Rental property owners need to collect the rent so they can pay their bills and continue operating. The goal should be to help Ohioans pay their rent so they can remain stably housed during the COVID-19 outbreak and after it subsides. That's why we need the state and federal governments to provide immediate emergency rental assistance to people at risk of losing their homes.

COHHIO is calling on Ohio's Congressional delegation to support national housing and homeless advocates' request for $50 billion in emergency rental assistance to prevent evictions, and an additional $10 billion to relieve pressure on the homeless system. We would also like to see the inclusion of Sen. Rob Portman's (R-Ohio) Eviction Crisis Act, in Congress's response to the coronavirus pandemic. And we support Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) efforts to make emergency rent and mortgage assistance part of the emergency stimulus measure."

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