

March 18, 2020

The Honorable Thomas Saylor
Chief Justice
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Judicial Center
601 Commonwealth Avenue
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17106

Dear Justice Saylor:

As you are aware, Pennsylvania is facing an unprecedented crisis. The COVID-19 pandemic is requiring all levels of government to activate emergency plans.

The Judiciary is not immune to these ever changing circumstances. Since Montgomery County requested waiver from some Judicial Rules, other courts have followed suit. Your March 16, 2020 order declaring a General Statewide Judicial Emergency has been helpful in ensuring county courts are making decisions based on what they are seeing on the ground in their counties.

Unfortunately, there is discrepancy between what is covered and not covered when a judicial district requests a judicial emergency. Some judicial districts, such as Montgomery and Philadelphia, have expressly prohibited evictions during this pandemic, while other orders have been less specific.

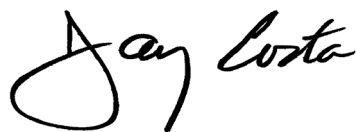
At this time of crisis, no individual or family should have to worry about whether or not they will be able to stay in their home or apartment. Many people across the nation are being affected by the shut down of businesses. For individuals and families, who often live pay check to pay check, these closures are forcing them to make the difficult decision of feeding their family or paying rent.

During these times, the community looks to leaders like us to provide them peace of mind. You have shown the willingness to take action.

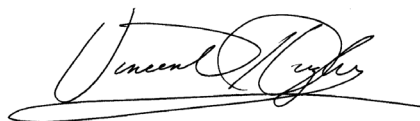
We are requesting that you issue a statewide judicial order postponing all evictions and mortgage foreclosures until this pandemic has passed. This order will give many Commonwealth citizens the peace of mind they need during a confusing and scary period.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

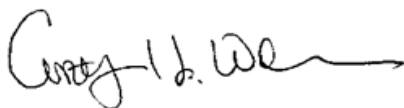
Sincerely,



Senator Jay Costa
Democratic Leader
43rd Senatorial District



Senator Vincent J. Hughes
Democratic Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
7th Senatorial District



Senator Anthony H. Williams
Senate Democratic Whip
8th Senatorial District



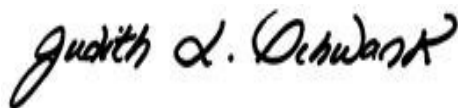
Senator Wayne D. Fontana
Democratic Caucus Chairman
42nd Senatorial District



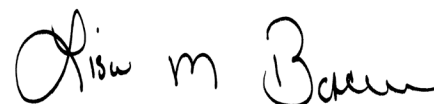
Senator Lawrence Farnese
Democratic Caucus Secretary
1st Senatorial District



Senator John Blake
Democratic Caucus Administrator
22nd Senatorial District



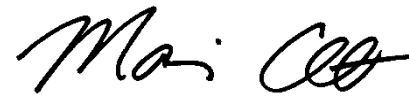
Senator Judith L. Schwank
Democratic Vice-Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
11th Senatorial District



Senator Lisa M. Boscola
Democratic Caucus Policy Chair
18th Senatorial District



Senator James Brewster
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Senator Lindsey Williams
38th Senatorial District