

# Pass the COVID-19 Housing Equity bill now for a strong recovery!

Tenants and homeowners need immediate protections to protect public health and mitigate the devastating toll COVID has taken on communities of color.

## Too many MA residents are being evicted during COVID-19!

- Over 23,000 total evictions filed since the end of the state moratorium. Over 15,000 evictions filed for non-payment of rent despite \$800 million in available rental assistance
- Every tenant with an eviction case carries a permanent eviction court record no matter how the case ends, making it hard to find new housing
- Evictions have a particularly devastating impact on people of color; COVID has exacerbated this inequity in Massachusetts
- Over 28,000 homeowners far behind on mortgages and at risk of foreclosure, many more in forbearances that end soon, and more than 200,000 worried they can't make their next mortgage payment

## The COVID-19 Housing Equity Bill will:

- Keep avoidable eviction cases out of court by requiring that rental assistance is pursued BEFORE filing for eviction
- Temporarily pause filing for no-fault evictions
- Reinstate a pause on foreclosures and require forbearance based on federal standards
- Require the state to make rental assistance more accessible to vulnerable groups that have struggled to get help because of a difficult application process, ensuring timely and equitable distribution of funds
- Protect the most vulnerable tenants from forced removal for COVID-19 debts



<https://www.homesforallmass.org/>