



TESTIMONY TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

HB 674 Landlord and Tenant — Stay of Eviction Proceedings for Rental Assistance Determination

POSITION: Support

BY: Nancy Soreng President

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The League of Women Voters of the United States, a nonpartisan organization, has an established history of advocating for social and economic justice and meeting the basic needs of all Americans.

In 1989, the League developed the following comprehensive position statement:

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that one of the goals of social policy in the United States should be to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families and that the most effective social programs are those designed to prevent or reduce poverty. Persons who are unable to work, whose earnings are inadequate, or for whom jobs are not available have the right to an income and/or services sufficient to meet their basic needs for food, shelter, and access to health care.

The COVID-19 pandemic has adversely affected many low-income and minority wage earners' ability to pay rent on a regular basis because of income loss due to job absence/loss due to illness, lack of childcare due to schools' COVID-19 protocols for students or other income reducing factors. Eviction stays are a critical intervention that delay final judgment and give renters the opportunity to apply for emergency rental assistance to meet their basic needs for housing and shelter.

Therefore, the League of Women Voters supports HB 674.