

**Celia Medrano Testimony for Feb 2nd, Housing Budget Hearing  
NY 11368**

Good morning my name is Celia I am a member of Make the Road NY. I have lived in Corona Queens for 8 years. I am here because my family and I have been affected by COVID 19 and we are very afraid of ending up evicted. Due to Covid, my husband and I lost our jobs, we had little savings and we had to use that to be able to eat and to pay for basic day-to-day services. For this reason we owe 8 months of rent, we haven't been able to pay since June.

In December my landlady tried to get me out of the apartment by offering \$10,000, when we didn't agree, she threatened to call ICE / Immigration. This made us very afraid, she also threatened to cut our basic services. That threat was fulfilled and we were without heating from Oct to Nov. I had to call 311 to make a complaint and the city came for an inspection. I know that this is not only happening to me, there are thousands of people in this situation of harassment because we do not have a way to pay, we have lost everything and we do not know when we are going to get out of COVID. We are hardworking and responsible people but at this moment we cannot do more. It is not that we do not want to pay or we are not taking advantage. We don't have a single dollar, we are living off food aid programs in organizations and churches.

Today we are desperate and we don't know what to do. I ask for the support of the elected officials, we need help to pay our debts, we need enough money in this budget not to end up on the streets. I continue to live in fear every day and waiting for the first of May, where I will go with my husband and children, I don't know what I'm going to do. Please help us.