

Hello Senators and Assemblymembers. My name is Michelle Fraser and I am a UHAB member.

I am speaking **today** to address the unprecedented crisis we find ourselves in due to COVID 19 and the lack of real solutions our state electeds have put forth so far.

We tenants have been fighting every day to demand support and recognition. We won the new eviction protections, but know that this is not enough. What happens after **May 1st**? What happens when millions of NYers who are behind on rent find themselves in court and with no where to go.

We already have a housing crisis. We don't need to make it worse. It costs more to keep NYers in shelter than it does to pass the much needed cancel rent bill and fund real solutions for addressing homelessness.

I urge all of you at the hearing **today to support these bills:**

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- **COVID-19 Housing Relief and Recovery for All (Salazar/Niou)**
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 - Clears all back rent accrued during the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic
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 - Creates a landlord hardship fund, and directs HCR to ensure that the fund prioritizes landlords who need aid the most
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 - Fiscal Impact: \$2.5 - \$4 Billion in the operating budget
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- **Housing Access Voucher Program (Kavanagh/Cymbrowitz)**
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 - Creates a rental assistance program

- for New Yorkers who are currently homeless or are at risk of homelessness, including undocumented New Yorkers and those who are not currently on public assistance
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- Fiscal Impact: The number of vouchers
- will depend on how deeply the program is funded. In 2021, we are requesting \$500 Million in funding for this program.
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- **Fully Fund 14,000 Units of Supportive Housing**
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- Invest in 14,000 units of supportive
- housing for homeless New Yorkers housing in the Capital Budget. These units of housing were promised by Governor Cuomo in 2016 and he has not yet delivered.
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We have the solutions, we know what needs to be done. Will you have the courage to stand with us? We will remember who has supported us.

JohnAugust Bridgeford

[he/him-what's this?](#)

Tenant Organizer, [UHAB](#)

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Community Through Cooperation

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www.uhab.org

UHAB staff are working remotely, but we're still working for you.

Our services and programs are running, and our staff is available by phone and email.

Keep your HDFC community safe.

[Here's how to talk to your neighbors about Coronavirus, request aid, and keep your building healthy:](#)

uhab.coop/news/keep-your-hdfc-community-safe

Stay informed to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Our resource center features up-to-date information on building sanitation, volunteer aid, taxes, and more.

uhab.coop/coronavirus

Please keep in touch. We're here for you and want to hear from you.

Tag us on social media, share your resiliency stories, and show us how you practice community while social distancing.

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