



MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Good Cause Eviction

A.5573 (Hunter)/S.3082A (Salazar)

May 13, 2022

The Community Health Care Association of New York State (CHCANYS) strongly supports Good Cause Eviction A.5573 (Hunter)/S.3082A (Salazar) which would grant every tenant in New York State baseline protections against unjust evictions and unreasonable rent increases.

CHCANYS is the statewide association of New York's 70+ federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), also known as community health centers (CHCs). Located in low-income and medically underserved communities, CHCs provide a full range of primary and preventive health care and enabling services for more than 2.1 million patients at over 800 sites, regardless of insurance, immigration status, or ability to pay. Among CHC patients, 90% are low-income, 68% are Black, Hispanic/Latinx, and people of color, 13% are uninsured, and 59% are enrolled in Medicaid or Child Health Plus.

All New Yorkers deserve safe and stable housing. Yet, according to Housing Justice for All, 50% of low-income New Yorkers can't afford their rent and at least 92,000 New Yorkers are experiencing homelessness.¹ Furthermore, in New York State, a tenant can be evicted for any reason. This loophole has led to individuals and families being retaliated against for fighting for decent living conditions, with Black, Indigenous, and communities of color being disproportionately impacted.

Providing access to stable housing is critical to improving health outcomes. Studies have shown that people who are experiencing chronic homelessness or are at higher risk for chronic mental health and physical health conditions in addition to increased mortality.² In contrast, providing access to stable housing leads to improved health outcomes and a significant reduction in health care costs.³

CHCANYS urges the New York State Legislature to pass Good Cause Eviction to protect New Yorkers' rights to stay in their homes by prohibiting evictions without good cause. Under this legislation, about 1.6M renter householders in New York State – nearly half of the State's renters – would gain new coverage under good cause eviction protections.⁴

For questions, please contact Marie Mongeon, Senior Director of Policy, at mmongeon@chcanys.org.

¹ Housing Justice For All. 2022. <https://housingjusticeforall.org/our-platform/>

² Taylor, Lauren. 2018. "Housing and Health: An Overview of the Literature." *HealthAffairs*. Washington, D.C. <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hpb20180313.396577/>

³ Larimer, Mary E. PhD; Malone, Daniel K., MPH; Garner, Michelle D. MSW, PhD; et al. 2009. "Health Care and Public Service Use and Costs Before and After Provision of Housing for Chronically Homeless Persons With Severe Alcohol Problems." *JAMA*. <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/183666>

⁴ Afridi, Lena; Mironova, Oksana; Stein, Samuel; et al. 2022. "The Right to Remain." Community Service Society. https://smhttp-ssl-58547.nexcesscdn.net/nycss/images/uploads/pubs/Right_to_Remain_Final.pdf