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To: Comments Mailbox

Subject: [External]Comments on LANDLORD TENANT – REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF

THE JUDICIARY SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON LANDLORD TENANT

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I write as a formerly homeless New Jersey resident and the daughter of a tireless advocate for decent housing who helped to build a senior home and two affordable housing complexes in Englewood, New Jersey.

My heart aches for the possible 250,000 victim families of the looming tsunami of evictions that is poised to descend on New Jersey two months from now, in July 2021 when the state's eviction protections end. Families and individuals whose ability to prepare meals, access refrigeration, running water, toilets, electricity, internet access, clean clothes and bedding and to store their essential belongings could soon be blasted into nonexistence. This will put at risk the ability to eat well, to bathe, to practice basic hygiene, to brush teeth, store medicines, clothing, pots and pans; to charge phones and to be reached by phone, text, email or through social media. And to earn a living.

Homelessness will threaten parents' ability to keep children safe – and even to keep their children at all. People struggling with health issues will find it harder to provide self-care. Those engaged in learning programs will find it harder to find space and time to study. Homeless people will find it challenging to stay warm on cool days, to find cool shelter from summer heat and to stay dry when it rains. In the winter months, what will they do?

Homeless people without vehicles will find their possessions drifting rapidly away from them until they are truly left with nothing but the clothes on their backs.

I ask that New Jersey find a different way to handle this prospective crisis that does not call for so many lives to be irretrievably shattered. Having a home should not depend on political or economic factors. Housing needs to be regarded and protected as a basic human right.

This article offers other valuable perspectives on the loomin homelessness crisis https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nj.com%2Fpolitics%2F2021%2F04%2Fflood-of-evictions-expected-in-nj-this-year-courts-want-these-changes-to-deal-with-

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Respectfully submitted, Kimi Wei

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