

We, the undersigned, support Asw. Britnee Timberlake's Assembly bill A.3948 because no one should lose their home as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. This legislation directly reflects the input of the housing and community development organizations, community leaders, and residents working together to address the significant housing obstacles that New Jersey residents are facing.

The pandemic has resulted in a public health crisis that has halted our economy and hit our most vulnerable residents the hardest. Since the stay-at-home executive order began, more than 700,000 New Jerseyans have filed for unemployment, putting enormous pressure on households to pay for basic expenses and creating the fear of losing their homes.

Eight years after Sandy caused enormous damage to New Jersey's communities and economy, and over a decade since the 2008 Great Recession, New Jersey residents were turning the corner and getting back on their feet. Housing challenges remained though; last year, we led the nation in foreclosures and were the sixth most expensive place to rent. It is imperative we move more quickly for sweeping protections today to keep families in their homes.

We strongly support Gov. Murphy's stay-at-home executive order to protect public health. As we work together to stop the spread of COVID-19 by staying home, our leaders can use the lessons we learned from Sandy to reduce the impact of this new disaster on our state's health and housing crises.

Our elected officials need to ensure that residents—particularly our hourly wage earners—are not saddled with back payments and debt that they and most New Jerseyans could not possibly pay. As this pandemic continues, we will need to address additional concerns and pressures placed upon our New Jersey residents to recover from this financial hardship.

At present, the bill that best reflects those principles is A.3948. We urge the state legislature to codify the governor's goal to keep residents in their homes. This starts with supporting A.3948, sponsored by Asw. Britnee Timberlake and supported by Assembly Housing Committee Chairman Benjie Wimberly, Asw. Angela McKnight, Asw. Shanique Speight, Asm. Daniel Benson, Asw. Linda Carter, Asm. Thomas Giblin, and Asm. Ralph Caputo. The Senate version of this bill is awaiting formal introduction.

This responsible proposal shows compassion to tenants and homeowners. We urge Assembly Speaker Coughlin to bring A.3948 up for a vote at the next Assembly voting session. We call on Senate President Sweeney to introduce a Senate companion and move this bill forward for Gov. Murphy to sign into law. Protecting everyone's housing protects all of our health.

Sincerely,

Staci Berger,
Housing and Community Development
Network of NJ

Adam Gordon,
Fair Share Housing Center

Vicky Hernandez,
Ironbound Community Corporation

Amanda Devecka-Rinear,
NJ Organizing Project

Mark Parker-Magyar,
NJ Working Families

Renee Koubiadis,
Anti-Poverty Network of NJ

Polli Schildge,
Asbury Park Complete Streets Coalition

Marcia Marley,
BlueWave NJ

Alexandar Staropoli,
Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers

Jusselia Molina,
Centro Comuntario CEUS

Linda Flores-Tober,
Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless

Wanda Hardy,
Financial Wellness Institute

John Restrepo,
Garden State Episcopal Community
Development Corporation

Dan McGuire,
Homeless Solutions, Inc,

Bill Good,
HUD Tenants Coalition

John Hart,
Isles, Inc.

Sherri Goldberg,
Jewish Renaissance Foundation

Anthony Smith,
Lincoln Park Coast Cultural District

Jessica Valladolid,
Masakhane

Charles Bergman,
New Brunswick Tomorrow

Beverly Brown Ruggia,
NJ Citizen Action

Derek Bloom,
Asbury Park Affordable Housing Coalition

Dominique Lee,
BRICK Education Network

Megan Hurley,
CATA – The Farmworkers Support Committee

Fred Rubin,
Community Refuge Church of Christ

Charlene Walker,
Faith in New Jersey

Matthew Smith,
Food & Water Watch

Judith Morris,
Greater Newark LISC

John Goldstein,
Homes for All Newark

Ana Vilela Ohiwerei,
Hudson County Housing Resource Center,
Inc.

Andrea Steinberg,
Jewish Family Service of Atlantic & Cape May
Counties

Raymond Ocasio,
La Casa de Don Pedro

Loretta Dibble,
Manufactured Homeowners Association of
NJ

Camilla Comer-Carruthers,
New Brunswick Healthy Housing Coalition

Richard Rohrman,
New Community Corporation

Marie Blistan,
NJ Education Association

Melissa Chalker,
NJ Foundation for Aging

Lou Kimmel,
New Labor

Kate Leahy,
NJ Coalition to End Homelessness

David Blanchard,
North NJ Democratic Socialists of America

Mark Valli,
NORWESCAP

Justin Goldsman,
Our Revolution Essex County

Lewis Hurd,
Premier Community Development Corporation

Dan Antonellis,
Region Nine Housing Corporation

Dominique Lee,
South Ward Children's Alliance

Diane Riley,
Supportive Housing Association of NJ

Patricia Anthony,
Unified Vailsburg Services

Irene Cooper-Basch,
Victoria Foundation

David Aaronson
Clifton Alexander
Jackson Almeida
Janet Aponte
Katherine Arevalo
Martha Arrizon
Heather Barton
Stephanie Bond
Elise Brancheau

Brandon McKoy,
NJ Policy Perspective

Anthony Diaz,
Newark Water Coalition

Trina Scordo,
NJ Communities United

Suzan Fichtner,
Northern Ocean Habitat for Humanity

Gregory Remaud,
NY/NJ Baykeeper

Rev. Terrence Porter,
Pilgrim Baptist Church/Red Bank Affordable
Housing Corporation.

Steve Jobin,
Raritan Bay Area YMCA

Kyra Price,
Solutions to End Poverty Soon (STEPS)

Richard C. Williams
St. Paul's Community Development
Corporation

Joyce Campbell,
Trenton Area Soup Kitchen

Vivian Fraser,
Urban League of Essex County

Susanne Byrne,
York Street Project

Cecilie Negron
Anna Nelson
Andrea Ojeda
Monica Olivo
Katia Oltmann
Ikechukwu Onyema
Stephanie Ortega
Rory Pasquariello
Jayna Pena

Amy Brown
Erica Cabrera
Naeema Campbell
Eboni Carter
Jontae Claiborne
Patricia Cortado
Drew Curtis
Glenn Davis
Lisa Davis
Cecille de Laurentis
Jose Delgado
Diego Duran
Natalia Duran
Douglas Farrand
Sarah Ferreira
Yonette Fredericks
Nicole Gamboa
Tessa Garbely
Alexis Garcia
William Gifford
Andrew Gordon
Gabriella Guerriero
Brianna Hanson
Kristie Heady
Lindsay Herron
Larry Hirsch
Elena Hung-Shum
Aymann Ismail
Sylvia Johnston
Jessie Lan
Miosha Lawrence
Jhoel Lemus
Alexander Lopez-Perez
Sharon Magarino
Jorge Mancilla
Armando Marion-Landais
Daniel Masessa
Melissa Miles
Carena Miles
Amaris Mitchell
Tara Murphy

Natasha Pereyra
Jerry Pierre
Allen Rabert
Vanessa Reina
Laurent Reyes
Gabe Ribeiro
Christopher Rodriguez
Christian Rodriguez
Bijan Roghanchi
Julia Rubin
Yovanka Sanchez
Katherine Sastre
Nicholas Scalera
Karl Schwartz
William Silversmith
Bria Singletary
Richard Sroczynski
Deane Stepansky
Letitia Sweat
Daniel Swern
Mark Swier
Jonathan Toledo
Amy Tower
Greg Tuttle
Andrea Urrea
Melanie Vasa
Hassel Velasco
Rosy Wagner
Crystal Wessel
William Williams
Chelsea Woods
Leith Woods
Thomas Young
Laura Zurfluh