



March 16, 2021

Dear Honorable Members of the Colorado State Legislature,

Together Colorado is a nonpartisan, multi-racial and multi-faith statewide organization working to place human dignity at the center of public life in Colorado. We are writing this letter to you to express our unequivocal support for SB21-173 (Rights Related to Residential Rental Agreements), HB21-1117 (Local Government Authority Promote Affordable Housing Units), maintaining, or increasing, funding for the Eviction Legal Defense Fund, renewing our statewide eviction moratorium, and extending our statewide moratorium on late rent fees.

One in four Colorado renters spend more than 50% of their income on housing. This financial burden is exacerbated by unregulated late rent fees and can lead to a cycle of debt and potential eviction. In facing eviction, tenants encounter an intimidating court system that is difficult to navigate and imposes additional financial burdens.

We support HB21-1117 (Rights Related to Residential Rental Agreements) to give local governments the tools to create local solutions that meet their affordable housing needs.

We support SB21-173 (Local Government Authority Promote Affordable Housing Units) to:

- Create a reasonable statutory limit on the amount and timing of late rent fees
- Require transparency about late fee charges and timing in a lease
- Prohibit a tenant from being evicted solely for owing late fees
- Allow tenants more opportunities to pay rent during the eviction process
- Eliminate bond requirements so tenants are not priced out of court
- Establish a financial penalty for landlords who illegally lockout their tenants

We support funding for the Eviction Legal Defense Fund to provide legal support to those who need it when they are facing eviction. Lack of legal support contributes to cycles of poverty throughout our state.

We support renewing our statewide eviction moratorium and extending our statewide moratorium on late rent fees.

All faith traditions urge us to care for each other, no matter what we look like, where we come from, or how much is in our wallet. Right now, many individuals and families are struggling to simply keep a roof over their heads. When we as a people of faith and good conscience join together, we can make the way for those in need to share in the blessings of a safe and stable home.

As clergy and faith leaders in your communities, we urge you to prioritize housing security and affordability during this legislative session. Through your work, we can ensure that all Coloradans have a place to call home.

Thank you for your public service and leadership.

Signed by 158 Colorado clergy and faith leaders below.

Note: Congregation/Denomination/Ministry listed for identification purposes only

Rev. Jessica Abell
Living Water Community
Denver

Rev. Nathan Adams
Park Hill United Methodist Church
Denver

Fr. Stephen Adams
St. John the Evangelist Catholic Parish
Loveland

Msgr. Robert Amundsen
Roman Catholic
Denver

Rev. Janel Apps Ramsey
Progressive Christian
Westminster

Rev. Megan Armstrong
Arvada United Methodist Church
Arvada

Reverend Adam Bailon
All Souls Church of Boulder
Boulder

Rev. Eric Banner
Jefferson Unitarian Church
Golden

Rabbi Eliot Baskin
Reform Jewish
Greenwood Village

Rev. Clover Beal
Mountainview Blvd Presbyterian
Denver

Madelyn Birgers
First Unitarian Society
Pueblo

Rev. Bonita Bock
Lutheran-ELCA
Denver

Susan Bolduc
Lutheran-ELCA
Colorado Springs

Rabbi Stephen Booth-Nadav
Kavod Senior Life
Denver

Rev. Cristina Bordes
Interfaith
Boulder

Rabbi Deborah Bronstein
Jewish, Reform
Boulder

Rev. Dr. Larry Brown
Baptist
Pueblo West

Pastor Paul Carlson
Lutheran-ELCA
Denver

Rev. Dr. Neema Caughran
Center for Inner Peace
Pueblo

Rev. Shaye Champ-Correll
Christian Church Disciples of Christ
Lafayette

The Reverend James Chapman
United Church of Christ
Colorado Springs

Fr. Bert Chilson
Catholic
Glenwood Springs

Christiana Clark
Director of Christian Formation
Saint John's Cathedral
Denver

Pastor Reg Cox
Lakewood Church of Christianity
Lakewood

Sister. Nancy Crafton S.C.
Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati, Ohio
Pueblo

Rev. Ian Cummins
Montview Blvd. Presbyterian Church
Denver

Rev. Thandiwe Dale-Ferguson
First Congregational Church
Loveland

Rev. Rebecca David Hensley
United Methodist
Lakewood

Mary Derbort
St. Michael Catholic Church
Cañon City

Michele Deslauriers
Alliance to Combat Human Trafficking/
Pueblo Catholic Charities
Pueblo

Jeanette Deters
Interfaith Specialist
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Westminster

Rev. Kelly Dignan
Unitarian Universalist
Denver

Marrton Dormish
Minister of Community Engagement
The Refuge
Broomfield

Deacon Jimmy Duffiner
First Presbyterian Church
Pueblo

Rev. Wesley Dunbar
St. John's Lutheran Church (ELCA)
Thornton

Dr. Micheal Earnest
St. Thomas Episcopal Church
Denver

Pastor Emily Easton, retired
Rocky Mountain United Methodist Church
Pueblo

Parabbi Dave Edwards
Congregation Ohr Shalom
Grand Junction

Pastor Kathy Escobar
The Refuge
Broomfield

Rev. Lydia Ferrante-Roseberry
Boulder Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Lafayette

Rabbi Brian Field
Judaism Your Way
Denver

Maureen Flanigan
Columbine Unitarian Universalist Church
Littleton

Rev. Sheri Fry
Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church
Northglenn

Sister Margaret Elizabeth Fuhr
Catholic Sisters of St. Francis
Denver

Fr. Cyrus Gallagher
Catholic
Colorado Springs

Rabbi SB Gershuny
Jewish Renewal
Boulder

Rabbi Bernard Gerson
Jewish
Denver

Rabbi Fred Greene
Congregation Har HaShem
Boulder

Rev. Alane Currier Griggs
United Methodist
Grand Junction

Reverend Emily Hagan
Lafayette First UMC &
Lyons Community Church

Senior Minister Gretchen Haley
Foothills Unitarian Church
Fort Collins

Dr. Christie Hanzlik, CS
Christian Science
Boulder

Rabbi Kim Harris
B'nai Chaim
Morrison

Dr. Margery Herrington
First Prebyterian Church
Pueblo

Co-Pastor Mike Herzog
The Refuge
Broomfield

Rev. Mark Hill
Cleaves Memorial
Commerce City

Rev. Masando Hiraoka
Mile Hi Church
Lakewood

Rev. Dr. Daniel Holt
Lutheran-ELCA
Colorado Springs

Rev. Ted Howard
St. John's Episcopal Church
Boulder

Pastor Charles H. Hubbard
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Loveland

Rev. Tracy Hughes
Mountain View United Church
Aurora

Rev. Patrick Hurley
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Pueblo

Judy Huston
Boulder Friends Meeting (Quaker)
Longmont

Spiritual Director Ellen Ireland
Koinonia Community of Meaning
Grand Junction

Dr. Jeff Johnsen
Mile High Ministries
Denver

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Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of the Grand Valley
Grand Junction

Rabbi Hillel Katzir
Jewish Action Network of Northern Colorado
Fort Collins

Susan Kenney
Catholic
Wheatridge

Rev. Janet Kettering
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, ELCA
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Pastor Robert Kippley, retired
Lutheran ELCA
Canon City

Fr. Terry Kissell
St. Michael the Archangel
Aurora

Br. Daniel Klawitter
Order of St. Luke
Denver

Rabbi Rachel Kobrin
Congregation Rodef Shalom
Denver

Sister Anna Koop
Loretto Community
Denver

Rabbi Jamie Korngold
Adventure Rabbi/ Reform
Boulder

Rev. Paul Kottke
United Methodist
Denver

Rev. Angie Kotzmoyer
United Methodist
Arvada

Tom Kowal
Mountain View Friends Meeting
Denver

Pastor Nicole Lamarche
United Church of Christ
Boulder

Rev. Mollie Landers Hatt
Lakewood United Church of Christ
Lakewood

Rev. Bradley Laurvick
Highlands United Methodist Church
Denver

Rev. Wayne A Laws
Mountain View United Church
Aurora

Rev. Dr. Jennifer Leath
Campbell Chapel AME Church
Denver

Ruling Elder PC (USA) Marry Lee
First Presbyterian Church
Pueblo

Rev. Marnie Leinberger
Milagro Christian Church
Pueblo

Reverend Laurel Liefert
Namaqua Unitarian Universalist Congregation
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Unitarian Universalist Church of Boulder
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Littleton

Rev. Kae Madden
Church of the Beloved Ecumenical Catholic
Community
Northglenn

Sister Patricia McComick
Loretto Community
Denver

Rev. Mark Meeks
Capitol Heights Presbyterian Church
Denver

Rev. Sally Megeath
Episcopal Diocese
Denver

Rev. Marcia Meier
Henderson Community Church
Henderson

Executive Director Adrian Miller
Colorado Council of Churches
Denver

Thomas Monroe
Chaplain Volunteer (Veterans and their families)
Pueblo

Reverend Amy Morgan
First United Presbyterian Church of Loveland
Loveland

Rev. Mike Morran
First Unitarian Church of Denver
Denver

Rev. Michael Mortvedt
ELCA Intentional Interim Pastor
Aurora

Pastor David Mourn
Mennonite
Colorado Springs

Dr. Eric Nelson
Heritage Christian Center
Aurora

Earth and Social Justice Pastor Doug Nelson
The Refuge
Broomfield

Rev. Jeff Neuman-Lee, retired
Church of the Brethren
Denver

President H Malcolm Newton
Denver Institute of Urban Studies
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Soul Care Full Gospel Center
Aurora

Apostle Sandra Powell
Soul Care Full Gospel Center
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Mary of Magdala, ECC
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Epiphany Lutheran Church
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Rev. Dr. Vernon Rempel
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Littleton

Outreach Director Ihsan Riahi
Denver North Islamic Center
Northglenn

Rev. Dr. Anne Rice-Jones
Rose of Sharon Tabernacle/
Shorter Community AME Church/NAACP
Lakewood

Rev. Ruth Rinehart
JUUST Living
Lakewood

Rev. Laura Rossbert
United Methodist Church
Denver

Rev. Dr. Nori Rost
All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church
Colorado Springs

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Rabbi Marc Soloway
Bonai Shalom
Boulder

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Dillon

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St. John's Episcopal Cathedral
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Shorter Community AME Church
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Donna Young
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