FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Utah Housing Coalition calls for a state-wide moratorium on evictions and foreclosures

We believe housing stability is crucial in a public health emergency in which containment and treatment rely on individuals staying indoors and not being forced to seek shelter or experience homelessness. Recent significant reductions in working hours, wages, or travel restrictions pose a hardship to Utahns who already struggle to make rent or mortgage payments.

Elected leaders in other states have already taken in enacting temporary moratoriums on evictions, residential foreclosures, tax liens on residential properties, and utility shut-offs in response to the COVID-19 health emergency.

We ask Governor Gary H. Herbert, Lieutenant Governor Spencer J. Cox and the Utah COVID-19 Community Task Force to explore state-wide moratorium on evictions and residential foreclosures. We also ask our leaders to seriously consider providing financial assistance to Utahns who cannot pay their rents or mortgages due to loss of jobs or reduction in working hours.

Utah Housing Coalition is a state-wide, membership-based organization that encompasses the affordable housing spectrum.

State Actions:

California

Connecticut
The state of Connecticut moved to prevent any utility shutoffs for the duration of the public health emergency put in place by Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont.

Delaware
The Delaware Justice of the Peace has postponed all landlord/tenant proceedings until after May 1.

Kentucky
Kentucky Courts cancelled evictions proceedings until April 10.

Massachusetts
Lawmakers and officials in Massachusetts are calling for measures to prevent housing evictions as COVID-19 spreads in the region.
New York
Lawmakers in New York have introduced legislation banning evictions and foreclosures during the pandemic and during future emergency declarations.

Oregon
Pressure is mounting on the Oregon government to enact an eviction ban as COVID-19 continues to spread in the state.

Local News:
Baltimore
Baltimore City Mayor Bernard C. “Jack” Young halted all evictions until schools reopened. The move comes after the Baltimore City Council – led by Council President Brandon Scott – passed a resolution calling for the move.

Boston
The Boston Housing Authority notified the state Housing Court Thursday that it will not pursue “non-essential eviction actions” for as long as Governor Charlie Baker’s declared state of emergency lasts.

Chicago
Cook County announced that it would be halting evictions for the next 30 days.

Los Angeles
The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority released a list of actions it has taken in light of the pandemic.

Miami
The Miami-Dade Police Department announced that it would be halting all evictions following an emergency declaration.

New Orleans
Judges in New Orleans announced that they would be halting all pending evictions until the end of April.

New York City
A coalition of New York City landlords pledged to halt evictions for three months amid the coronavirus outbreak.

Philadelphia
Resolutions were introduced in the Philadelphia City Council calling for a halt on evictions as well as protections to prevent utility shutoffs during the outbreak. The Council does not have the power to perform these actions, but the resolution puts pressure on both the local Sherriff’s office and local utilities to comply.

Portland
Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler said that he supported a ban on evictions and rent increases during the public health crisis. However, there have been no moves to push those ideas through the City Council.

San Francisco
The City of San Francisco has created a $5 million fund focused on reducing the risk of exposure to the virus for marginally housed seniors, people with underlying health conditions, and individuals experiencing homelessness, living in shelters, single-room occupancy hotels (SROs), and Permanent Supportive Housing. Some of this funding has been used to provide RVs for individuals experiencing homelessness or who cannot otherwise quarantine safely.

San Francisco Supervisor Dean Preston will be introducing legislation placing a moratorium on evictions during the current public health emergency.

San Jose
The San Jose City Council approved a proposal to prevent evictions while the Coronavirus emergency is occurring. The California Apartment Association said that they would support a commonsense
moratorium on evictions. The moratorium would take effect upon passage and remain in effect for 30 days with the possibility of extensions.

**Seattle**
Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan is utilizing her public health emergency authority to expand shelter capacity for individuals experiencing homelessness. Over 100 additional spaces will be created at designated sites throughout the city. Seattle is also halting any power or water shut-off’s due to nonpayment during the city’s coronavirus emergency. In King County, one of the epicenters of the outbreak in the United States, a move by the county government to purchase a hotel to house patients in isolation is drawing legal and political opposition from a city government and a nearby car dealership.

**Washington, D.C.**
DC City Council Chairman Phil Mendelson introduced a measure banning evictions in the city.

Please visit National Low Income Housing Coalition web site for the latest national updates
https://nlihc.org/coronavirus-and-housing-homelessness

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