You can send or adapt this message.

Dear\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

I'm requesting an eviction moratorium from the Supreme Court until September 7. Gov. Northam wrote that **over 6,000 eviction hearings were on court dockets** and thousands of people would be displaced during a pandemic, spreading the virus further in the community. [**He asked for a short-term moratorium so he could work with the legislature on a better solution.**](https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/governor-of-virginia/pdf/Gov-ltr-to-Chief-Justice-Lemons-re--Order-of-Judicial-Emergency-request-for-extension.pdf)

**A longer moratorium - through early 2021 - is needed to allow millions in CARES funds to be channeled to landlords if their tenants qualify.** Counties and cities throughout the commonwealth are distributing these funds through the end of the year.

Please work with your colleagues on legislation that **incorporates the**[**best practices in eviction moratoria**](https://evictionlab.org/covid-housing-scorecard-methods/)from a study of 50 states at the Princeton Eviction Lab. Some of these include:

* Allowing tenants **up to 12 months to replay** their back rent if they cannot pay it all at once.
* **Prohibiting landlords from filing court proceedings or sending tenants “pay or quit” letters**. Fifty percent of tenants threatened with eviction leave their home before going to court.
* **Barring landlords from charging late fees**and reporting tenants to a credit bureau.

**We stand ready to support legislation** that will keep our neighbors housed through this difficult time for all of us.