**[Send this letter to: Representatives of the Governor, Speaker and Pro Tem]**

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**[Place on organizational letterhead]**

May 20, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom

Governor of California

State Capitol

Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Toni Atkins

Senate President Pro Tempore

State Capitol, Room 205

Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anthony Rendon

Speaker of the Assembly

State Capitol, Room 219

Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: The Need to Extend, Expand, and Improve SB 91 to Meet the Needs of Californians**

Dear Governor Newsom, Pro Tem Atkins, and Speaker Rendon:

[City/County/Organization/Name] urgently requests updates to SB 91. **Modifications to the State’s rent relief program requirements and an extension of the eviction moratorium are necessary** to ensure that the funds reach low-income tenants and their landlords and to ensure that California does not face an eviction crisis now or in the future.

[Example of the local experience of the program if you have one, e.g. the number of requests that have come in, the limited timeline, other challenges]

Applications to date for emergency rental and utility assistance demonstrate the significant need for changes to the program. We respectfully request the following changes:

* 100% support to eligible landlords
* 100% support to tenants, even when their landlord is not participating
* Lift the current caps on prospective rent
* Maintain eviction protections until low-wage jobs have recovered to pre-pandemic levels and rental assistance funds have been distributed to all who are eligible
* Full relief of utility payments, as federal law allows
* Even when temporary eviction protections end, no tenant should be evicted if they are eligible for rental assistance but have not yet received it, or if their landlord received assistance to clear all back rent owed
* Protect people from long-term debt and credit damage
* Put a stay to court proceedings for tenants who have not been able to access relief and allow them the time to apply for debt relief assistance

These suggested modifications align with what the majority of Californians feel the state needs to provide to struggling renters. According to a new statewide poll, more than 60% of Californians support an extension of the state’s eviction moratorium and 64% want [the state] to deliver $5.2 billion to help low-income renters to pay back-rent and make future rent payments.[[1]](#footnote-1)

Making these improvements and removing many of SB 91’s restrictions will allow more flexibility to expend the funds, and extending the eviction moratorium will give us the time to reach all eligible tenants and their landlords. Implementing changes now will help to meet the needs of households with low income in [your city/county] and across California.

Sincerely,

[Name, Title, Signature]

1. https://buildaffordablefasterca.com/latest\_updates.php?p=29 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)