



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Pamela Helming

Senator Helming Statement on COVID-19 Emergency Eviction and Foreclosure Prevention Act

PAMELA HELMING December 28, 2020

Senator Helming was in Albany today for a special legislative session to act on the Senate Majority's proposed COVID-19 Emergency Eviction and Foreclosure Prevention Act. Senator Helming voted no on the bill.

"New Yorkers who are experiencing economic hardship and struggling to pay their rent or mortgage deserve assistance," said Senator Helming. "But this legislation, however well intentioned, will not help people get back to work or help them meet their obligations. It will not enable landlords to maintain and keep their properties safe or meet their mortgage obligations."

"This bill simply kicks the can down the road and creates a bigger financial hole for tenants and landlords," Senator Helming added. "And it fails to ensure tenants have access to information on federal and state programs already in place that could help them pay their rent, keep their heat on, and feed their families."

Senator Helming continued, "New York has tens of millions of dollars in rent relief funding that has yet to be distributed, and more money from the federal government is likely on the way. Our focus should be on getting this money in the hands of New Yorkers who need it most, not taking redundant action that will only add more bureaucracy."

Senator Helming noted that she does support the provision of the bill that automatically renews property tax exemptions for seniors and people with disabilities. Last month, Senator Helming asked the Governor to sign an executive order to this effect, which he did on December 19.

Senator Helming was recently appointed Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Housing, Construction and Community Development, a position she will begin in January.