

Hello members of the Senate and Assembly. My name is Viola Bibins and I am a leader in the tenant's group HOPE, Housing Organizers for People Empower in East Brooklyn. I live at 1074 Eastern Parkway in Brooklyn.

For years I have been fighting in my building and in my community for tenants rights. Now, I see that we are in an unprecedented crisis and the housing crisis is worse than ever.

-
-
- WE NEED 2.2 billion to CLEAR ALL
- THE BACK RENT and \$500 Million for the Housing Access Voucher program in THIS BUDGET.

-
-
-
- Simply spending federal money
- is not enough - we need the State to take action.

• **We**
need a landlord hardship fund, like the one in Senator Salazar and Assemblymember Niou's Cancel Rent Bill -- not a tenant based application system. We need this because:

- -
 -
 - **It makes it possible for undocument**
 -

-
-
-
- While the State budget details
- how federal rent relief money will be spent, there is
- **\$0 additional money for tenants/rent relief in the State budget.**

-
-
-
- According to Stout, a national
- research firm, 1.2 million households are behind on rent because of COVID-19 and owe collectively 2.2 billion dollars.

-
-
-
- This crisis falls on Black and
- Latinx communities the hardest. According to the US Pulse Survey, Households With "No to Slight Confidence In Ability to Pay Next Month's Rent" (US Census Pulse Survey)

- -
 -
 - 48% of Latinx Households
 -
 -
 -
 - 20% of White Households
 -
 -
 -
 - 40% of Black Households
 -
-
-
-
- If nothing changes, an estimated
- 1 million renters will be living in buildings that are facing foreclosure (Community Service Society/UNHP) and hotels are facing loss of income
-

Pass cancel rent now, and fund a full recover for all New Yorkers.