

[The Child Eviction Fact Force](#)

For Immediate Release

News

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“NO ROOM AT THE INN”

**CHILDREN ARE THE GREATEST VICTIMS OF OUR NATIONAL
EVICTION POLICY FAILURES**



“No Room at the Inn” by Russell Brutsché, *used with permission*

Congress Must Protect Our Children this Christmas

Santa Cruz, CA (December 24, 2020) -- Christmas is a time to care for *all* of our children. It is a time for protecting the innocent, sheltering the displaced, and feeding the hungry.

During much of the COVID pandemic, U.S. headlines have highlighted the dangers of mass eviction [1]. What is easy to miss is that our children are the most vulnerable. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's Household Pulse Survey, households with **children are twice as likely to be threatened with eviction** as those with no children. Today, 7.2 million children live in households that owe back rent, with another one-quarter in homes behind on rent. There are 11.5 million children in households that don't think they can pay next month's rent; 41% of all renters with children doubt they can pay rent next month [2]. *In the middle of winter, in this season of caring, how can we let tens of millions of our children face eviction?*

You cannot shelter-in-place if you have no shelter. Twice as many people get COVID, and five times as many die of it, when people are put out of their homes. Public health experts at UCLA, UCSF and Johns Hopkins found a **540% increase** in COVID deaths connected to the ending of eviction moratoriums in 27 states last summer (over 10,000 excess deaths in 16 weeks) [3]. People crowding into homeless shelters and makeshift encampments, or moving in with family or friends, become a perfect recipe for making the pandemic much worse. And even with the CDC moratorium, The Eviction Lab at Princeton University documented about 80,000 evictions, just in the 27 cities they monitored this fall [4]. So in addition to risks from eviction and homelessness, children not protected from eviction are at much greater risk of being orphaned. *Is Christmas not a time to cherish families?*

Housing advocates are adamant that we implement a **national eviction ban**. We need to simplify the process for protecting renters, **so that families can stay in their homes**. The bill that can do this already exists: HR6515 - The Rent and Mortgage Cancellation Act makes millions of families facing eviction and foreclosure safe in their homes the instant it becomes law. This bill would effectively and immediately protect renters, while fully compensating landlords and lenders. *What would make a better Christmas gift than keeping people in their homes?*

Hunger is also closing in on America's children. Lauren Brauer organized studies with the Brookings Institute to track how many people were going hungry because of COVID. **By June, over five times as many parents were reporting that their children had to go hungry** in the last week because they could not afford food (as compared to in all of 2018 [5]). In April 2020, 17.4% of mothers with children under 12 "sometimes or often" did not have enough to eat, compared to only 3.1% of mothers reporting that for all of 2018. Brauer said children in the U.S. are going hungry "to an extent unprecedented in modern times" [6]. *In this season of giving, we should demand that ALL of America's children are fed and housed.*

Notes

[1] For example: "Homeless Pandemic Looms As 30 Million Are Risk Of Eviction" (NPR, 8/20/20); "14,000,000 American Households Are At Risk Of Eviction As Protections Expires" (CNN 12/11/20); "With Evictions Ban Expiring Soon, New Housing Crisis Can Threaten Minorities Most" (CNN12/18/20); "Evictions Are Violence: Millions Could Lose Homes Amid Covid Pandemic If Federal Moratorium Expires." (Democracy Now, 12/22/20).

[2] Based on May 5 - Dec 7, 2020 data from U.S. Census Bureau's Household Pulse Survey <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/household-pulse-survey/data.html>

[3] Leifheit, Kathryn M. and Linton, Sabriya L. and Raifman, Julia and Schwartz, Gabriel and Benfer, Emily and Zimmerman, Frederick J and Pollack, Craig, **Expiring Eviction Moratoriums and COVID-19 Incidence and Mortality** (November 30, 2020). Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3739576> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3739576>

[4] As reported in

<https://www.cnbc.com/2020/12/05/why-home-evictions-are-still-happening-despite-cdc-ban.html>

[5] See

https://www.hamiltonproject.org/blog/about_14_million_children_in_the_us_are_not_getting_enough_to_eat

[6] See

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/up-front/2020/05/06/the-covid-19-crisis-has-already-left-too-many-children-hungry-in-america/> and as reported in <https://news.yahoo.com/nearly-1-5-us-children-left-hungry-since-211425517.html>

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