

Hello,

I wanted to reach out and provide some of my thoughts as landlord and how I'm impacted by COVID-19.

My tenants have expressed concerns about their ability to continue paying rent, and while I am doing my best to work with them, the reality is that I also rely on their payments as income. Any solution being considered needs to be two-pronged, relief and aid to tenants so they can pay for food, medicine, and utilities as well as for landlords to be able to both continue providing maintenance on rental properties as well as help our income so we can pay for food, medicine, and utilities as well. Many landlords are small businesses who would be just as impacted as other non-essential business if our income streams dried up.

Providing relief to only tenants and those whose only mortgage payment is for their primary residence is going to create a new problem. If this became the case, I would have to seriously consider selling my rental property or stop the maintenance/upkeep of it and deal with the fallout later when cash is flowing again and I have more options. Congress is exploring temporary UBI and other direct aid and relief packages which, when combined with direct rent assistance payments to landlords would ensure that tenants don't need to worry about their housing or living situation for a few months while we flatten the curve and get to the other side of the COVID-19 peak.

Given these considerations and recognizing that these are trying, uncertain times, I urgently ask that you support direct rent assistance payments to landlords when discussing housing as it will allow us to continue surviving while also relieving the pressure on our tenants to not worry about keeping a roof over their heads.

All the best,  
Lorenzo