

My name is Estelle Womack this my written testimony in opposition to LC-18.

I own rental property and regret that the COVID -19 pandemic has shifted our country into economic distress. This is a societal problem that the State of Federal govt. must address. It is totally wrong to burden the primary solution to this problem on one group of people — landlords.

Grocery stores are neither giving away groceries or discounting their products - Gas stations are neither giving away or discounting their product Drug stores are neither giving away or discounting their prescriptions and OTC medications And - I could continue - restaurants, travel, clothing and on and on.

Yet the State has chosen to make one group responsible for a major problem and is forcing them to support and pay for it.

If the State makes a decision to help tenants that is fine. The “ State “ is all the people of the State not a small group. If the State representatives chose to help tenants do so with a voucher system that they could pay the landlord with and the landlord could use to pay their own taxes - and there are many more ideas that spread responsibility and do not punish one group of people- landlords.

I know there are more tenants than landlords, therefore they have a bigger voice. But, that does not make what you are doing with CL-18 correct or fair.

I am sorry I can not be there to testify in person but I am a senior and with the pandemic I feel I should stay home and protect my health. But, I really feel the injustice of what you are doing.

Estelle Womack