

**April 24 - JOIN US FOR RIGHT TO COUNSEL ACTION IN ALBANY ON TUESDAY, APRIL 26 AT NOON!**

Our faith leads us to proclaim the dignity of all people and the right to shelter. We agree with Pope Francis, who said during his 2015 visit to the United States, “We can find no social or moral justification, no justification whatsoever, for lack of housing.”

As you try to live out your faith, it's possible you are frustrated with how hard it is for so many to find and keep affordable housing. There is, however, something you can do about it right now!

**JOIN US FOR RIGHT TO COUNSEL ACTION ON TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2022**

**PLEASE SIGN RIGHT TO COUNSEL LETTER**

The legislature is back in session, and we have 6 weeks to push statewide Right to Counsel past the finish line! As you know, we'll be starting with a big **Day of Action with Housing Justice for All in Albany on Tuesday, April 26 at 12.**

**THINGS TO KNOW FOR TUESDAY**

If you are a Faith Leader (clergy or lay) [PLEASE CLICK HERE TO SIGN RIGHT TO COUNSEL LETTER](#). We need your signature for the letter to present to the Governor by Monday at 5. If you are a faith leader, please join us for the in person event on Tuesday. When you sign on there is a place to tell us whether you will attend on Tuesday but please contact The Reverend Jim Ketcham at [Jketcham54@gmail.com](mailto:Jketcham54@gmail.com) or 607-738-5686 to let us know as well.

Starting at 6:30am, buses are leaving from various locations across the state. The bus schedule (and other logistics) is [here](#). **Email Cea ([cea.weaver@gmail.com](mailto:cea.weaver@gmail.com)) if you need to get on the bus!**

Folks will arrive in Albany around 10am, grab lunch, and then march to the staircase outside the Legislative Office Building (172 State Street) where we'll do a JOINT press conference with HJ4A and the NYHA. Following the press conference, everyone will enter the building and go through security.

Once inside, we'll have **our press conference with clergy at 12:00pm in the War Room (on the 3rd floor of the capitol building near the press corps).**

Following the press conference, groups will either go to lobby meetings and/or do a direct action targeting specific legislators.

**KEEP PEOPLE IN THEIR HOMES. STOP EVICTIONS!**

**FAITH LEADERS: HELP US FIND LANDLORDS IN NEW YORK CITY WHO WILL ACCEPT FEDERAL EMERGENCY HOUSING VOUCHERS**

One of the most immediate ways for a homeless or at-risk household to secure permanent housing is through being able to use a rental voucher!! We were very disappointed that the Governor did not sign into law the establishment of a Statewide Housing Access Voucher Program. There are, however, housing vouchers available in New York City. Some are

financed by the City and some (Emergency Housing Vouchers) are financed by the Federal Government.

The Interfaith Assembly on Homelessness and Housing, the New York State Council of Churches and Bricks and Mortals are combining efforts to reach out to congregational leaders in New York City to contact their parishioners who might be landlords or locate a landlord in your community and simply ask them to consider taking an Emergency Housing Voucher presented to them from a family in need. It's good deal all around.,

Faith leaders continually worry about how to address the needs of their parishioners who are homeless or those who are rent burdened (paying over 30% of their income on housing). **You might not be able to build housing, or you might get very frustrated with the slow government response to the housing crisis, but there is one thing you can do right now to have an impact! Find the owner of an apartment or two in New York City who will take a voucher.** Why not make it a little mission project for the Spring? Work with a couple of parishioners and market the opportunity as much as you can to put a family in a stable home. This is a better use of time than organizing a bake sale!

With Ramadan and the Easter season still with us and as we remember the promises of of Passover which was recently concluded, we invite faith leaders and faith communities to consider if the values held in common by all of these: empathy for those in need, sacrifice, redemption and rebirth, and liberation - could be brought to life by helping families in need of affordable housing to find apartments that will accept their federally secured 10 year emergency housing voucher (EHV).

To learn more about how you and your community can help us find landlords who are willing to help at-risk families to find secure homes please write to Drew Oldfield at [drew@iahh.org](mailto:drew@iahh.org). To learn more about the Interfaith Landlord Locator Program, [click here](#).

You will find:

[\*\*ILLP EHV Program Flyer ILLP EHV FAQ Sheet \(Frequently Asked Questions\)\*\*](#)

[\*\*Explanation of the Available NYC Housing Vouchers\*\*](#)

[\*\*Explanation of the EHV Tenant Application Process - including a list of NYC agencies that screen tenants into the program\*\*](#)

[\*\*Video of the March ILLP EHV Informational Forum\*\*](#)

If you have any questions, or have an idea, or even a lead on landlord who will consider taking a voucher, you can also call Peter Cook at 508-380-8289 or Marc Greenberg at 917-913-0098 and we will get you started.

**Remember to frequently [visit our website](#) which is updated daily with new information and events.** For more information on our legislative ask, seminars and town halls around the budget and proposed bail, raise the age, and discovery rollback [click here](#).