

## **SUPPORT SB 1547 AND PROTECT VICTIMS: PEOPLE SHOULD NOT BE PUNISHED FOR CALLING THE POLICE**

SB 1547 as engrossed will protect tenants and landlords from evictions, fines, or loss of a business simply because they called the police for help.

Chief House Sponsors: Rep. DeLuca, Rep. Lang, Rep. Fortner, Rep. Sandack and Rep. Cassidy; Co-Sponsors: Rep. Martwick, Rep. Gabel, Rep. Reaves-Harris, Rep. Flowers, and Rep. Ford, Rep. Williams, Rep. Sosnowski, Rep. Guzzardi, Rep. Nekritz, Rep. Golar, Rep. Riley, Rep. Andersson, Rep. Yingling, and Rep. Mayfield

**SB 1547 (Sen. Hutchinson; Rep. DeLuca) passed the Senate Judiciary Committee and full Senate with unanimous, bipartisan support.**

### **The Problem**

People should not be punished for calling the police for help. But in at least 35 communities in Illinois, that is what happens. These municipalities have enacted ordinances—often called crime-free or nuisance property ordinances—penalizing residents or landlords when police are called to their property. As a result, individuals throughout the state face the threat of eviction, fines, or other penalties for making 911 calls for help.

- **These ordinances harm survivors of domestic violence.** Treating police calls as a “nuisance” sends a victim-blaming message to survivors of domestic violence and discourages them from seeking help. Nearly 20,000 clients served by Illinois domestic violence programs in 2014 came from rental housing, placing them at risk of eviction if they seek police protection in these communities.
- **These ordinances harm individuals with disabilities** and their families, who may be disproportionately likely to rely on police or emergency services for assistance.
- **These ordinances undermine public safety in communities throughout Illinois.** By linking calls with eviction and fines, these ordinances deter tenants, landlords, and neighbors from reporting incidents of domestic violence or seeking police intervention.

### **The Solution: SB 1547**

- Similar to laws already passed in Pennsylvania and Minnesota, SB 1547 is designed to protect individuals who call the police for help.
- SB 1547 will prevent local governments from enacting or enforcing ordinances that punish tenants or landlords for calling the police in response to domestic or sexual violence or for punishing victims for their crimes committed against them.
- **SB1547 as engrossed will not impede local governments’ ability to fight crime.** Indeed, it could improve local governments’ crime fighting efforts by targeting actual perpetrators of crime and not the innocent victims of it.

For more information please contact Jenna Prochaska, Staff Attorney at the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law, at 312-757-5246 or [jennaprochaska@povertylaw.org](mailto:jennaprochaska@povertylaw.org) or Jeremy Bergstrom, Senior Staff Attorney, at 312- 368-2677 or [jeremybergstrom@povertylaw.org](mailto:jeremybergstrom@povertylaw.org).

**SB 1547 has a growing list of supporters, including:**

**Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law**

**American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois**

**Housing Action Illinois**

**Open Communities**

**Access Living**

**IL Office of the State's Attorney Appellate Prosecutor**

AIDS Foundation of Chicago

Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County

Cabrini Green Legal Aid

Call for Help, Inc.

Champaign-Urbana Tenant Union

Chicago Coalition for the Homeless

Chicago Medical-Legal Partnership for Children

ChildServ

Domestic Violence Legal Clinic

Equip for Equality

Ford Heights Community Service Organization Inc.

Heartland Alliance

HOPE Fair Housing

Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights

Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Illinois Equal Justice Foundation

IMPACT Center for Independent Living

Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing

League of Women Voters of Illinois

Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan Family Services

Lutheran Advocacy-Illinois

Mental Health Centers of Central Illinois

Metropolitan Tenants Organization

Metropolitan St. Louis Equal Housing and Opportunity

Council (EHOC)

Mujeres Latinas en Accion

National Alliance of Mental Illness of

Greater Chicago (NAMI)

Next Steps

Northwest Center Against Sexual Assault

Oak Park Regional Housing Center

Ounce of Prevention

Pillars

Grace United Methodist Church

**Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence**

**Office of the Attorney General of Illinois**

**Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network**

**Illinois State Bar Association**

**Illinois Sheriffs' Association**

**Cook County Sheriff's Office**

First United Methodist Church of Arlington Heights

Respond Now

Sarah's Inn

Sacred Creations

Supportive Housing Providers Association of Illinois

Thresholds

Daybreak of Lisle

Delta Center, Inc

Housing Choice Partners

Illinois Network of Centers for Independent Living

LINC Inc

LUCHA

Madison County Community Development

Mobile Home Owners Association of Illinois

Neighbors of Maywood Community Organization

New Life Interim Housing

PACE, Inc. Center for Independent Living

Park Manor Neighbors Community Council

Project IRENE

Reba Place Development Corp

Remax Cityview

Springfield Center for Independent Living

Stopping Woman Abuse Now

South Suburban Housing Center

The Chicago Urban League

The Lighthouse Shelter

The Women's Center

Turning Point Domestic Violence Agency

Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice Board of Trustees

Uptown People's Law Center

West Central Illinois Center for Independent Living

Will-Grundy Center for Independent Living

Zion United Methodist Church