

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT

Cheyenne Drews

Office of Representative Anna V. Eskamani

Cheyenne.Drews@myfloridahouse.gov

Rep. Anna V. Eskamani & Legislative Democrats Call for Relief for Renters During Special Session

ORLANDO, Fla. -- Today, **Representative Anna Eskamani (D-Orlando)** and House and Senate Democrats sent a letter (attached) to Governor Ron DeSantis asking that he expand the call for the special session on property and homeowners insurance to include proposals that would provide real relief to renters throughout the state. While finding real solutions that help homeowners, rather than special interests, for the state's collapsing property insurance market is vital for the people of Florida, it is only one issue contributing to the ongoing housing crisis impacting workers and seniors struggling to keep a roof over their heads.

Democrats are calling for the following proposals to aid renters that were filed during the 2022 session to be considered during the special session:

- [SB 1322 / HB 1131- Court Records of Eviction Proceedings](#)
- [SB 1776 / HB 1335 - Infant & Children Housing Security](#)
- [SB 1620 / HB 1587 - Residential Tenancies](#)
- [SB 648 / HB 511 - COVID-19 Eviction Information](#)
- [HB 6005 / SB 582 - Eviction Court Access](#)
- [HB 6017 / SB 580 - Rent Stabilization](#)
- [HB 6057 - Repeal of Developer Incentive Requirements](#)
- [SB 1134 / HB 819 / HB 1485 - Landlord's Maintenance Responsibility](#)
- [HB 933 / SB 1394 - Toxic Mold Protections](#)
- [HB 6075 / SB1898 - Tourism Tax Revenue](#)
- [SB 1900 / HB 6113 - Restoring Local Freedoms Act](#)

House Democrats are in favor of any legislation that would provide relief to renters should be open for consideration.

This letter was co-signed by 28 Democratic legislators in the Senate and House. A full list of signatories and a copy of the letter can be found below.

"Every single day, I hear from my constituents about their struggles to find an affordable place to live in the face of price gouging by corporate landlords and developers," said **Representative Anna V. Eskamani**. "When people work hard and do the right thing, they deserve to have the freedom that comes with a safe and secure place to live for their family. Instead of culture war fights we should be working to solve the real issues that are facing Floridians and the housing crisis is at the top of the list. Let's make sure we make the best use of taxpayer dollars and don't leave anyone behind when we return to Tallahassee."



THE FLORIDA SENATE
THE FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



Office of Governor Ron DeSantis
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399

April 28, 2022

Dear Governor DeSantis,

Democratic Members of the Florida Legislature agree with the calling of a special session property and homeowner insurance reform. All forty-one of my Democratic House colleagues were proud to vote yes on holding this special session during the recent poll of the Legislature by Senator Jeff Brandes. While it is truly disappointing that an issue of such great importance to our constituents took a back seat to numerous culture war fights during our regular session, we stand ready to get to work on finding real solutions to lower rates for homeowners and bring stability to this volatile market.

It is our sincere hope that the proposals put forward will prioritize lowering costs for everyday Floridians and not any special interest groups who have created this market on the verge of collapse.

In the interest of saving taxpayer dollars, we are calling on you today to expand the call for this special session to include legislation that will provide real relief to renters throughout Florida.

As you no doubt are aware, property insurance is only one portion of the housing crisis currently sweeping our state. Over the course of the last twenty years, more than \$2.3 billion has been raided from the Sadowski Affordable Housing Trust Fund. These actions have been a major driver of the severe affordable housing shortage now impacting our hardworking constituents, from the people who clean the hotel rooms that drive our tourism economy to the seniors on fixed incomes who deserve the secure retirement they worked so hard to achieve.

Central Florida [rents have increased by 20% or more since last year](#), South Florida rents [have risen by some studies upwards of 57%](#), and in [Tampa rent rose by 31%](#) over the last year. Today, [Miami, Orlando and Tampa](#) have the fastest-growing rents in the country. Thousands of Floridians continue to [struggle to access funds](#) through [Our Florida](#), leaving families facing eviction and children homeless while promised funds from the state fail to arrive. It is clear that Floridians are in need of relief.



THE FLORIDA SENATE
THE FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



We ask that these bills which were filed in the 2022 regular session be considered:

- [SB 1322 / HB 1131- Court Records of Eviction Proceedings](#)
- [SB 1776 / HB 1335 - Infant & Children Housing Security](#)
- [SB 1620 / HB 1587 - Residential Tenancies](#)
- [SB 648 / HB 511 - COVID-19 Eviction Information](#)
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- [SB 1900 / HB 6113 - Restoring Local Freedoms Act](#)

However, please see this as only a partial list, as we are open to considering any proposals from Legislative leadership or that you may have as Governor that could lower costs for those who are struggling to have the freedom to afford a roof over their heads despite their hard work.

We are also still awaiting your response to our request for a housing state of emergency which was sent to your office in December. It is time to put an end to the price gouging that is occurring in the rental market and we believe it is within your power as Governor to take this important step for the people of our state.

Every Floridian who works hard and does the right thing for their family should have the comfort and safety of a warm bed at night.

Let's work together to deliver that to the great people of this state.

Sincerely,

Representative Anna V. Eskamani

Representative Angie Nixon

Representative Robin Bartleman

Representative Carlos Guillermo Smith

Representative Evan Jenne

Representative Kristen Arrington

Representative Felicia Robinson

Representative Joe Casello

Representative Dotie Joseph

Representative Geraldine F. Thompson



**THE FLORIDA SENATE
THE FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



Representative Yvonne Hinson

Representative Emily Slosberg-King

Representative Daryl Campbell

Representative Joy Goff-Marcil

Representative Michael Grieco

Representative Michele K. Rayner

Representative Travaris McCurdy

Representative Michael Gottlieb

Representative Fentrice Driskell

Representative Joseph S. Geller

Representative Ben Diamond

Representative Kamia Brown

Senator Gary Farmer

Senator Annette Taddeo

Senator Tina Polsky

Senator Victor M. Torres, Jr.

Senator Bobby Powell, Jr.

Senator Shevrin Jones