# Legislation Details (With Text)

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| **File #:** | 63815 | **Version:** | 1 | **Name:** | Calling upon President Biden and the U.S. Congress to provide additional assistance to the rental housing community. |
| **Type:** | Resolution | | | **Status:** | Passed |
| **File created:** | 2/16/2021 | | | **In control:** | COMMON COUNCIL |
| **On agenda:** | 2/23/2021 | | | **Final action:** | 2/23/2021 |
| **Enactment date:** | 3/3/2021 | | | **Enactment #:** | RES-21-00124 |

**Title:** Calling upon President Biden and the U.S. Congress to provide additional assistance to the rental housing community.

**Sponsors:** Satya V. Rhodes-Conway, Shiva Bidar, Tag Evers, Lindsay Lemmer, Arvina Martin, Samba Baldeh, Nasra Wehelie, Syed Abbas, Michael E. Verveer, Keith Furman, Marsha A. Rummel, Max Prestigiacomo, Sheri Carter

**Indexes:**

**Code sections:**

**Attachments:**

| Date | Ver. | Action By | Action | Result |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2/23/2021 | 1 | COMMON COUNCIL | Adopt Unanimously Under Suspension of Rules 2.04, 2.24, & 2.25 | Pass |
| 2/16/2021 | 1 | Mayor's Office | RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT UNDER SUSPENSION OF RULES 2.04, 2.05, 2.24, & 2.25 - MISC. ITEMS | |

## Fiscal Note

No appropriation required.

## Title

Calling upon President Biden and the U.S. Congress to provide additional assistance to the rental housing community.

## Body

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to negatively impact all aspects of our daily life; and,

WHEREAS, to protect public health and slow transmission of this highly contagious communicable virus, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and state and local departments of public health have issued various orders which have limited economic activity and contributed to unemployment in certain sectors; and,

WHEREAS, individuals exposed to COVID-19 may be temporarily unable to report to work due to illness caused by COVID-19 or quarantines related to COVID-19; and,

WHEREAS, individuals directly affected by COVID-19 may experience loss of income and expensive health care and medical coverage making it impossible to fulfill their rent payment obligations; and,

WHEREAS, the inability of renters to pay their rent directly impacts the nation's housing providers who depend on rent payments to make their mortgage and insurance payments, maintain their apartment buildings, pay their utility and refuse removal bills, and meet their property tax obligations that fund our community services; and,

WHEREAS, the majority of our nation's housing rental stock is owned and maintained by small and mid-sized

housing providers who lack the reserves to absorb any loss of monthly rental income; and,

WHEREAS, since the beginning of the pandemic, many housing providers have worked closely with their residents by creating flexible rent payment plans, waiving fees and connecting residents with social services; and,

WHEREAS, state and local governments have created rental assistance programs to assist renters and housing providers make ends meet; and,

WHEREAS, in recognition of the impact on housing of this public health crisis, the United States Congress has approved $25 billion in direct emergency rental assistance; and,

WHEREAS, these efforts do not begin to address the housing crisis facing the nation as ten million renters were projected by Moody's Analytics to owe over $57 billion in back rent in 2020 alone; and,

WHEREAS, specific and targeted federal assistance is needed in the areas of short-term Emergency Response, mid-term Recovery, and long-term planning to Rebuild our nation's communities,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor, and Common Council of the City of Madison, Wisconsin, call upon President Joseph R. Biden and the United States Congress to employ the full weight of the federal government to assist the rental housing community by incorporating the following policy priorities:

1. Short-Term Emergency Response
   a .Provide assistance to residents that have been financially impacted by the virus,
   b. Provide additional allocations to the Emergency Rental Assistance Program to fill the assistance gap and respond more effectively to the outstanding need, and
   c. Promote flexible policies that enable grantees to widely and efficiently distribute rental assistance to all who are in financial need.

2. Mid-Term Recovery
   a. Transition from early pandemic emergency response to a deliberate and sustainable recovery plan that provides resources to impacted businesses and residents, and
   b. Promote policies that continue to narrowly target and better assist those with enduring and demonstrable financial need, and
   c. Fully fund existing programs, such as the HUD Section Housing Choice Voucher, to fund long-term housing assistance.

3. Long-Term Rebuilding
   a. Extend the "Build Back Better" initiative to the production of rental housing, with a focus on affordable, workforce and middle market housing, and
   b. Expand federal infrastructure priorities to drive new investment in rental housing, including affordable, workforce and middle market housing, and
   c. Repeal the Faircloth Amendment to the Housing Act of 1937 and increase federal funding to the Department of Housing and Urban Development to support the repair, replacement, and creation of Public Housing; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to President Joseph R. Biden; the Honorable Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi; the Honorable Senate Majority Leader, Chuck Schumer; and the members of the Wisconsin congressional delegation