

**Brandywine Communities**

357 Lincoln Highway | North Versailles | PA | 15137

412.823.9223

BrandywineCommunities.com



April 17, 2020

The Honorable Pat Toomey  
310 Grant St #1440  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Dear Senator Toomey,

I am the President of [Brandywine Communities](#), one of the primary affordable housing and commercial property management companies in the region. For the last 60+ years, we have been committed to providing moderate and low-income individuals and seniors with high value, stable, affordable housing. We have always worked closely with tenants who struggle to make ends meet, but in all my years in this business, I have never seen such economic despair as the COVID crisis has wrought.

Each day, I hear from more and more residents experiencing extreme hardship. Our clients are especially vulnerable to disruptions in their ability to work, and thus, their ability to pay rent. From the very beginning of this crisis, we have taken coronavirus seriously and have been leaders among our peers in our efforts to keep our residents safe.

I desperately want to continue to be able to responsibly provide our residents with a safe, stable place to call home. My residents have lost steady wages, access to health care, and in some cases, family and friends to this invisible enemy. The last thing they need is to be displaced because they cannot afford rent.

Our federal, state, and local government has taken some good initial steps, but has not gone nearly far enough to help the population of tenants in properties like ours. They need more help, and they need it now.

I am writing to ask Congress to consider the following relief measures:

- Create a federal emergency rental assistance program for those who are impacted by the COVID-19 crisis and struggle to cover housing expenses.
  - Extend the CARES Act eviction moratorium provision to safeguard people from eviction for a longer period of time.
  - Allow more housing providers access to mortgage forbearance and ensure term fairness and flexibility.
  - Require any savings from mortgage forbearance to be passed on to renters in the form of reduced rent or reimbursement of paid rent.
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- Provide financial assistance for property-level financial obligations such as property taxes or insurance payments.
- Require any savings from financial assistance to be passed to renters in the form of reduced rent or reimbursement of paid rent.
- Replenish and expand the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program to include independent contractors and gig economy workers.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. We can make it out of this pandemic, but only if we all work together. We need an all-hands-on-deck approach from our federal government, and we need it now.

I hope to hear from you soon to discuss how we can work together to help those who most need us to get through this crisis.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Katz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John Katz, President  
Brandywine Agency, Inc  
dba, Brandywine Communities