



Coalition on Homelessness
and Housing in Ohio
COHHIO

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Contact: Suzanne Gravette Acker
614-280-1984

COHHIO Offers Hotline to Low-Income Tenants Facing Eviction due to Landlord Foreclosure

*Goal is to connect tenants to the legal help they need
to minimize upheaval.*

COLUMBUS – Pledging support for two tenant protection bills moving forward in the Ohio Senate and House, the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO) is making available a **hotline (1-866-966-8727)** to low-income tenants who face eviction as a result of landlord foreclosure. The hotline will provide instructions on how at-risk tenants may connect with legal aid attorneys in their area.

COHHIO supports Senate Bill 13 (D. Miller) and House Bill 9 (Celeste/Foley). Both require the landlord to provide notice of the foreclosure process and sale date to the tenant; allow tenancy to survive the foreclosure; and convert the existing agreement to a month-to-month tenancy.

“Tenants are paying too high a price for their landlords’ foreclosure,” said Bill Faith, executive director of COHHIO. “Eviction is a tremendous upheaval, and too often it is accompanied by the loss of a tenant’s last month’s rent and security deposit. COHHIO’s goal is to help move tenant protection legislation forward and at the same time, connect tenants to legal assistance to minimize upheaval caused by the process. It’s not the tenants’ fault,” said Faith. “It’s the fault of the process.”

An estimated 30 to 40 percent of all foreclosures in the state are landlord foreclosures, said David Rothstein, a researcher with Policy Matters Ohio and author of the report, “Collateral Damage: Renters in the Foreclosure Crisis.” Also supportive of the House and Senate bills, Rothstein said that a conservative cost estimate to a displaced family in Cuyahoga County is \$2,500. Tenants in that county have lost \$10 million he said.

“When owners of rental properties face foreclosure, they often walk away from the property, do not inform tenants about the situation, or tell the tenant when it is too late to easily move,” said Rothstein. “The tragedy is that tenants may have totally fulfilled their end of the agreement but they end up suffering the largest loss, their home.”

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To view the full report, “Collateral Damage: Renters in the Foreclosure Crisis,” visit www.policymattersohio.org