## THE FLORIDA SENATE

## SENATE DEMOCRATIC OFFICE



AUDREY GIBSON Minority Leader **Location** 200 Senate Building

Mailing Address

404 South Monroe Street Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5833

BILL MONTFORD

Minority Leader Pro Tempore

May 27, 2020

The Honorable Ron DeSantis Governor, State of Florida Office of the Governor The Capitol Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Governor DeSantis:

I know that many are grateful for the two week extension of Executive Order 20-94, Mortgage Foreclosure and Eviction Relief related to COVID-19, however thousands of Floridians are still reeling financially due to job loss and continue to need housing security. To stem what could create an unprecedented increase in homelessness, I urge you to lengthen the moratorium on evictions and foreclosures, from June 2<sup>nd</sup>, until July 1<sup>st</sup>.

The conditions which precipitated this order are no less precarious today; in fact, in many ways, they have worsened. Unemployment in Florida has risen to 12.9 percent, and in some counties, even higher. At the same time, many unemployed Floridians continue to await full unemployment compensation from state and federal sources, if they are getting it at all, preventing many of them from making timely rent or mortgage payments.

Recognizing the toll evictions will take on the families in our state, an extension of the moratorium is critically needed to forestall legal actions already in que targeting the victims of this devastating pandemic.

As our state continues to navigate its way toward a full reopening, I urge you to extend a lifeline to Floridians facing potential homelessness due to this unprecedented crisis.

Sincerely,

Audrey Gibson

Senate Minority Leader