

## **SUPPORT SB 1547 (SA2) AND PROTECT VICTIMS: PEOPLE SHOULD NOT BE PUNISHED FOR CALLING THE POLICE**

SB 1547 (SA2) will protect tenants and landlords from evictions, fines, or loss of a business simply because they called the police for help.

**Chief Sponsors: Sen. Hutchinson, Sen. Koehler, Sen. Collins, Sen. Martinez**  
**Co-Sponsors: Sen. Steans, Sen. Noland, Sen. Delgado, Sen. Jones,**  
**Sen. Lightford, Sen. Barickman, Sen. Biss, Sen. Van Pelt, Sen. Barickman,**  
**Sen. Harmon, Sen. Connelly, Sen. Mulroe, Sen. Muñoz, Sen. Kotowski,**  
**Sen. Stadelman, Sen. Haine, Sen. Harris, and Sen. Link**

### **The Problem**

People should not be punished for calling the police for help. But in at least 35 communities in Illinois, that is what happens. These municipalities have enacted ordinances—often called crime-free or nuisance property ordinances—penalizing residents or landlords when police are called to their property. As a result, individuals throughout the state face the threat of eviction, fines, or other penalties for making 911 calls for help.

- **These ordinances punish victims for criminal activity committed against them.** Victims are faced with the choice of suffering silently or risking homelessness.
- **These ordinances harm survivors of domestic violence.** Treating police calls as a “nuisance” sends a victim-blaming message to survivors of domestic violence and discourages them from seeking help. Nearly 20,000 clients served by Illinois domestic violence programs in 2014 came from rental housing, placing them at risk of eviction if they seek police protection in these communities.
- **These ordinances harm individuals with disabilities** and their families, who may be disproportionately likely to rely on police or emergency services for assistance.
- **These ordinances undermine public safety in communities throughout Illinois.** By linking calls to the police with eviction and fines, these ordinances deter tenants, landlords, and neighbors from contacting police in emergency situations.

### **The Solution: SB 1547, SA 2**

- Similar to laws already passed in Pennsylvania and Minnesota, SB 1547 is designed to protect individuals who call the police for help.
- SB 1547 will prevent local governments from enacting or enforcing ordinances that punish tenants or landlords for calling the police in response to domestic or sexual violence, or other emergency situations or for punishing victims for their crimes committed against them.
- **Senate Amendment 2 clarifies that SB1547 will not impede a local government’s ability to fight crime.** Indeed, it could improve a local government’s crime fighting efforts by targeting actual perpetrators of crime and not the innocent victims of it.

For more information please contact Jenna Prochaska, Staff Attorney at the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law, at 312-757-5246 or [jennaprochaska@povertylaw.org](mailto:jennaprochaska@povertylaw.org) or Jeremy Bergstrom, Senior Staff Attorney at the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law, at 312-368-2677 or [jeremybergstrom@povertylaw.org](mailto:jeremybergstrom@povertylaw.org).

**SB 1547 has a growing list of supporters, including:**

**Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law**  
**American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois**  
**Housing Action Illinois**  
**Open Communities**  
**Access Living**  
**IL Office of the State's Attorney Appellate Prosecutor**  
AIDS Foundation of Chicago  
Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County  
Cabrini Green Legal Aid  
Call for Help, Inc.  
Champaign-Urbana Tenant Union  
Chicago Coalition for the Homeless  
Chicago Medical-Legal Partnership for Children  
ChildServ  
Domestic Violence Legal Clinic  
Equip for Equality  
Ford Heights Community Service Organization Inc.  
Heartland Alliance  
HOPE Fair Housing  
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights  
Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
Illinois Equal Justice Foundation  
Illinois Rental Property Owners Association  
IMPACT Center for Independent Living  
Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing  
League of Women Voters of Illinois  
Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan Family Services  
Lutheran Advocacy-Illinois  
Mental Health Centers of Central Illinois  
Metropolitan Tenants Organization  
Metropolitan St. Louis Equal Housing and Opportunity Council (EHOC)  
Mujeres Latinas en Accion  
National Alliance of Mental Illness of Greater Chicago (NAMI)  
Next Steps  
Northwest Center Against Sexual Assault  
Oak Park Regional Housing Center  
Ounce of Prevention  
Pillars

**Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence**  
**Office of the Attorney General of Illinois**  
**Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network**  
**Illinois State Bar Association**  
**Illinois Sheriffs' Association**  
**Cook County Sheriff's Office**  
Grace United Methodist Church  
First United Methodist Church of Arlington Heights  
Respond Now  
Sarah's Inn  
Sacred Creations  
Supportive Housing Providers Association of Illinois  
Thresholds  
Daybreak of Lisle  
Delta Center, Inc  
Housing Choice Partners  
Illinois Network of Centers for Independent Living  
LINC Inc  
LUCHA  
Madison County Community Development  
Mobile Home Owners Association of Illinois  
Neighbors of Maywood Community Organization  
New Life Interim Housing  
PACE, Inc. Center for Independent Living  
Park Manor Neighbors Community Council  
Project IRENE  
Reba Place Development Corp  
Remax Cityview  
Springfield Center for Independent Living  
Stopping Woman Abuse Now  
South Suburban Housing Center  
The Chicago Urban League  
The Lighthouse Shelter  
The Women's Center  
Turning Point Domestic Violence Agency  
Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice Board of Trustees  
Uptown People's Law Center  
West Central Illinois Center for Independent Living  
Will-Grundy Center for Independent Living  
Zion United Methodist Church