

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2776

To clarify that the Secretary of Health and Human Services has authority to implement a residential eviction moratorium under the quarantine authority vested by the Public Health Service Act, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SANDERS, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To clarify that the Secretary of Health and Human Services has authority to implement a residential eviction moratorium under the quarantine authority vested by the Public Health Service Act, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Keeping Renters Safe
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. CLARIFICATION HHS HAS AUTHORITY FOR RESI-**
2 **DENTIAL EVICTION MORATORIA.**

3 Section 361 of the Public Health Service Act (42
4 U.S.C. 264) is amended—

5 (1) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-
6 section (f); and

7 (2) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-
8 lowing:

9 “(e) Consistent with the standard described in sub-
10 section (a), regulations under this section may implement,
11 maintain, or extend a residential eviction moratorium.”.

12 **SEC. 3. COVID-19 EVICTION MORATORIUM.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
14 Human Services shall implement a national residential
15 eviction moratorium under section 361 of the Public
16 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 264) to reduce the intro-
17 duction, transmission, and spread of COVID-19 and oth-
18 erwise address the public health emergency declared under
19 section 319 of the such Act (42 U.S.C. 247d) with respect
20 to COVID-19.

21 (b) APPLICABILITY.—The moratorium under sub-
22 section (a) shall—

23 (1) be automatic, without requiring individuals
24 to apply for coverage; and

25 (2) apply to all residential eviction filings, hear-
26 ings, judgments, and execution of judgments, except

1 that the Secretary of Health and Human Services
2 may establish moratorium exceptions necessary to
3 protect the health and safety of others.

4 (c) PERIOD FOLLOWING PUBLIC HEALTH EMER-
5 GENCY.—The moratorium under subsection (a) shall re-
6 main in effect at least 60 days after the conclusion of the
7 public health emergency described in such subsection, in-
8 cluding any extensions thereof.

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