

Dear Friend,

How To Prevent Foreclosures In Your Neighborhood

The escalating number of foreclosures don't only threaten people who may lose their homes, they also bring down property values and equity throughout entire neighborhoods.

That's why we must focus on reducing home foreclosures and rebuilding homeowner wealth as a key strategy in strengthening our economy.

As your Representative in Congress, my top priority is standing up for hard-working families on Long Island. If you are one of far too many homeowners on Long Island struggling with your mortgage, or if you know someone who is, this newsletter will provide you with some information to help you get through this difficult time.

For those who are feeling the pinch but whose own mortgages are not at risk, I hope to explain how several new rules will address many of your concerns, as well. Wednesday, President Obama released the details of his comprehensive Homeowner Affordability and Stability Plan. Effective immediately, the plan will allow 4 to 5 million families who owe more on their homes than its current appraised value to lower their interest rates. The new plan will also help another 3 to 4 million at-risk homeowners avoid foreclosure by reducing monthly mortgage payments. A Treasury Department website, www.financialstability.gov, has information detailing how the programs work and whether you are eligible.

I encourage you to contact your mortgage lender or servicer to take advantage of these new programs and reduce your monthly payments to stay in your home. In Congress, we are working to do our part to help troubled borrowers, too. This week, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 1106, the Helping Families Save Their Homes Act, which I was proud to support. This legislation complements President Obama's plan by simplifying existing programs and providing incentives to lenders to modify mortgages. It also provides important safe-guards for responsible homeowners who are not covered by President Obama's plan, but are still at risk of foreclosure.

To find out more about my work on behalf of Long Island homeowners, or to share your thoughts with me on this or any other issue, please visit my website at <http://israel.house.gov>. It is my honor to represent you in Washington, and I will continue to do everything I can to assist

your family in navigating these new programs.

These are resources that you may find helpful:

Hope Now:

www.hopenow.com, (888) 995-4673

Hope Now is a government and industry alliance that provides free foreclosure prevention assistance from HUD-approved counseling agents.

Federal Housing Administration

www.fha.gov, (800) 225-5342

Long Island Housing Partnership (LIHP)

www.lihp.org, (631) 435-4710

At no cost to you, HUD-certified housing counselors can help you understand your options, organize your finances and represent you in negotiations with your lender, if you need this assistance.

Community Development Corporation (CDC) of Long Island

Housing Help is on the Way

Friday, March 06, 2009

www.cdcli.org, (631) 471-1215 CDC specializes in affordable housing on Long Island and has a foreclosure prevention expert on staff to answer your questions.

If you are having difficulty communicating with your lender, my office may be able to assist you in contacting them and requesting attention to your case. Please call my Hauppauge office at (631) 951-2210 to speak with a caseworker.

Sincerely,

Steve Israel

Member of Congress