



## Upstream RAFT Act: Prevent Evictions Now!

Support [H.1312](#) and [S.856](#) (Decker/Crighton)

### What is RAFT?

Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) is a state program that provides short-term financial assistance for low-income families and individuals facing eviction or a utility shutoff, **regardless of immigration status**. The program provides up to \$10,000 per year to cover utilities, moving costs, and overdue rent. Assistance is paid directly to landlords and utility providers on the tenant's behalf.



### The Problem:

Rents and eviction rates have skyrocketed since the COVID pandemic, and continue to displace immigrant families. But RAFT cannot meet current needs because:

- Eviction filings by landlords have doubled since last year
- The \$10,000 cap does not account for soaring rents or family size
- Often landlords refuse to cooperate, and eligible tenants are evicted for non-payment
- Tenants aren't eligible for help with rent until they receive a "notice to quit" from the landlord--and by then, eviction proceedings are imminent.

### The Solution: The Upstream RAFT Act!

This bill, sponsored by Rep Decker and Sen Crighton, would:

- Restore COVID-era access by eliminating annual caps on RAFT assistance
- Create a workaround so that if a landlord refuses to participate in the RAFT program, the tenants can still successfully apply on their own
- End the "notice to quit" requirement so that tenants can get help before late payments become an eviction (further "upstream")

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