

Dear [name and title of elected official],

I am writing to you to share my concern about the potential for a community health crisis, as referenced in United Way Halifax's op-ed, ***Impending community health crisis requires more than housing***. Too many people in our community are facing rising food and shelter costs, are not able to access mental health and addictions supports, can't afford childcare and are unable to access safe, inclusive spaces. Many people who want to increase their skills and education are unable to and are stuck in precarious low-wage jobs that offer few benefits like paid sick days.

People missing out on critical social determinants of health are more likely to have poor physical health. As we all know, our healthcare system is under considerable stress. Investing to support people will not only change the trajectory of peoples' lives, it can also help prevent a community health crisis.

As the COVID-19 pandemic and the housing crisis continue to impact our most vulnerable residents, I hope you will commit to learning more about the connection between the vital organizations in the social sector and the health and well-being of vulnerable and marginalized people in our community.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]