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**Tenant Protection Bill Passes House
with Bipartisan Support**
*3 Republican votes help vault HB 9
into Senate for Consideration*

COLUMBUS - An important step on the long road to foreclosure reform was taken today by the Ohio House when it passed House Bill 9 (Celeste/Foley) by a vote of 53 to 42 , (three Representatives were not present), indicating support from both parties. The bill, known as the Ohio Tenant Protection Act, now heads to the Senate, where companion bill SB 13 (D. Miller) was heard today.

HB 9 requires landlords to notify new and existing tenants of impending foreclosure within a certain time frame; converts existing rental agreements to month-to-month tenancy; and transfers renters' security deposits from previous owner to purchaser.

“We’re hoping the bipartisan House vote on this key piece of foreclosure legislation will help build momentum for reform of the overall foreclosure process,” said Bill Faith, executive director of the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio. Faith said COHHIO also supports HB 3, which includes a foreclosure moratorium, the regulation of servicers, and a foreclosure filing fee, among other measures.

HB 9 tends to the tenant, an often overlooked but growing segment of Ohio population impacted by the foreclosure crisis. According to research conducted by Policy Matters Ohio, between 30 and 40 percent of Ohio’s foreclosures involve rental properties; and the estimated cost of displacement per renter family is \$2,500.

“Through no fault of their own and at great personal expense, renters are brought into the crosshairs of foreclosure and often wind up without a place to live. We commend the Ohio House for agreeing that this is not a partisan issue, and that unsuspecting tenants who pay their rent on time deserve protection,” Faith said.