



Mar 26th, 2025

Chair Igo, and members of the Committee on Housing Finance and Policy committee:

The Equity in Place Coalition would like to thank this committee for its dedicated work to advancing housing justice for Minnesotans. We oppose **HF 935** because we recognize that renters in Minnesota need stronger protections to have stable and dignified housing.

The proposed legislation will serve as a financial barrier to tenant organizing efforts required to meet the needs of renters. It will have deep impacts in greater Minnesota where tenant-organizing infrastructure is severely lacking adequate funding to meet the needs of their community. "Requiring tenant organizers to submit to a background check and compensate landlords adds an unnecessary financial burden, as housing advocacy organizations already conduct background checks as part of their hiring process." Adding cost to organizations by requiring tenant organizers to submit to a background check and provide compensation to a landlord only duplicates a cost for these organizations. Within the housing advocacy ecosystem, it is standard for organizations to require background checks of the organizers they are hiring. Under existing tenant law, non-resident tenant organizers are already required to be invited and accompanied by a resident of any property they organize.

A tenant's ability to seek non-resident tenant organizers for assistance in asserting their rights is vital to ensuring Minnesota has a more stable housing ecosystem. Equipping renters with assistance from non-resident tenant advocates can help them understand their rights and responsibilities and better prepare them to work in a relationship with their landlord and management. This is especially important for non-English speaking tenants who in many cases do not learn about communications from management until they connect with an English speaker who can translate the content of the communication to them, this can result in penalties for these tenants for a barrier they face.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to a more robust conversation on how to advance Minnesota to have a more equitable housing system that will allow us to continue to move toward true housing equity and stability for all Minnesotans.

Equity in Place urges you to vote **NO** on **HF 935**. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

*African Career Education and Resource (ACER)
Alliance for Metropolitan Stability
Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, University of MN
CloseKnit
Community Stabilization Project*

COPAL

East Side Freedom Library

Harrison Neighborhood Association

HOME Line

Hope Community

Housing Justice Center

Jewish Community Action

Minnesota Consortium of Community Developers

Minnesota Youth Collective

MN STEP (Standing Together to End Poverty)

Native American Community Development Institute

New American Development Center

Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association

Pueblos de Lucha y Esperanza MN

Urban Homeworks

West Side Community Organization

Testimony template

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Chair Igo and members of the Committee on Housing and Homelessness Prevention,

I am (Name), I'm a (Position) at (Organization) and a member of the Equity in Place coalition (**a coalition of 20-plus BIPOC lead organizations that have come together to advance housing justice in our Region and State**). I am here today to speak against the proposed provisions of HF 935.

I would like to highlight that tenants are facing the harsh realities of what the lack of affordable housing is doing to our communities. Current tenant-landlord law protects tenants' rights to organize and to invite non-resident organizers to assist them. Non-resident tenant organizers are required by state law to be invited by and accompanied by a resident as a guest. This legislation would hamper tenants' ability to engage with tenant organizers due to the financial implications required by this bill. I believe this legislation would also create an unequal barrier for renters organizing, especially in multifamily housing.

Thank you for your time and consideration.