

3/10/22 Senate Housing Committee: Written Remarks from Gabby Santiago – St. Paul resident

My name is Gabby Santiago; I live in the Summit-University/Rondo neighborhood of St. Paul. This is an economically diverse neighborhood and I value the range of people and experiences that brings into our lives. I have personally gotten to a point where I am comfortable economically, but I do not want any of my neighbors to be driven off by rising rent prices. After I graduated in 2011, having stable housing to go home to after an eight hour shift with a 1.5 hour long commute both ways, or after hustling between two different jobs on opposite sides of St. Paul, made a huge difference in keeping me together both financially and mentally, and able to work towards my goals.

I did my research and engaged with both sides before voting for rent stabilization, and I ultimately voted yes because I believe this is an important tool in our toolbox to address our housing challenges. That is why I oppose a pre-emption of rent stabilization, because it is an obstruction of the will of the majority of the voters in our city, who have done the work of engaging with these issues and clearly stating the path we want to take forward.