



Jan 29th, 2025

Dear Chair Lucero, Chair Port, and Members of the Committee on Housing and Homelessness Prevention,

The New American Development Center (NADC) is a nonprofit organization that serves underrepresented communities. Our doors are open to both English and non-English speakers, and we have been dedicated to assisting low-income individuals across Minnesota, regardless of their background.

We have encountered significant challenges when working with landlords on behalf of tenants. Landlords have charged hidden fees and evicted tenants without following proper procedures. Some of the tenants we've assisted have been evicted through letters sent by landlords without court orders and charged thousands of dollars in fees.

Families who are voucher holders often live in fear of asking their landlords to make necessary repairs because they have been threatened with eviction, even when they are living in unsafe conditions. We oppose SF 222 because it puts these families in an impossible situation, where they are too afraid to advocate for their right to safe and habitable living spaces.

At NADC, we do background checks on our employees, but as a smaller organization, we cannot afford to cover the additional costs for landlords to run separate background checks on Organizers. In the past, we have utilized public libraries to hold meetings where tenants can voice their concerns regarding their landlords. We have also helped tenants through education and by connecting them to resources like Legal Aid, Homeline, and rent assistance programs when they fall behind on rent.

We strongly urge the committee to vote against SF 222 as it would have a negative impact on both our advocates and the tenants we serve.

Sincerely,

New American Development Center