



February 18th, 2026

To the Members of the House Housing Finance and Policy Committee

Equity in Place is a coalition centering the expertise and power of people of color to uproot policies that create racial inequity — and ensure our communities have choice, agency, and self-determination in where they live and what their neighborhoods look like. In the wake of the violent, unconstitutional Operation Metro Surge, we are witnessing catastrophic numbers of families facing eviction and homelessness: rent is past due, and Emergency Rental Assistance is needed now.

The federal attack on Minnesota is about more than immigration-- it is compounding an existing housing crisis. Minnesotans – citizens, refugees, and immigrants alike– have been attacked, detained, and separated from their families when leaving their homes to get groceries, pay bills, or open their businesses. Sheltering in place has become a necessity. **Tens of thousands of families are unable to get to work safely to earn money to make rent**, placing them at risk for eviction. If served eviction notices, many cannot safely get to eviction court or access homelessness prevention services. An eviction record will follow a tenant for 7 years.

Emergency rental assistance is crucial to prevent a tsunami of evictions and to ward off the disproportionate harm facing Minnesotan renters of color, immigrants, and refugees. **We Support (HF 3403, HF 3410, and HF 3424) establishing a one-time emergency rental assistance aid for counties, amending provisions related to redemption in an eviction action for nonpayment of rent, and amending the notice requirements for an eviction action for nonpayment of rent.**

These necessary measures are just the beginning of the road to recovery for Minnesota. The drawdown of federal agents does not bring justice or economic repair. Minnesotan immigrants are hard-working, entrepreneurs, and drivers of our economy. We want to get back to work, continue living in the neighborhoods we love, and continue to make Minnesota the unique and beautiful place it is. We urge you to do everything in your power, as our representatives, to make it possible for our families to stay in place and our communities to rebuild.

Thank you,

Juan Luis Rivera-Reyes - Coalition Organizer at the Alliance for Metropolitan Stability



**Equity in Place Coalition Members:**

African Career Education and Resource (ACER)  
Alliance for Metropolitan Stability  
Ain Dah Yung Center  
Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, University of MN  
Community Stabilization Project  
COPAL  
Harrison Neighborhood Association  
HOME Line  
Hope Community  
Housing in Action  
Housing Justice Center  
Jewish Community Action  
Local Progress Minnesota  
Minnesota Consortium of Community Developers  
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  
West Side Community Organization

Dear House Reps and elected officials,

Hello. My name is Danielle Tietjen and I am a resident of North Minneapolis. I had planned on being present today for this hearing, but the truth is, 12 requests came in for rent relief and I am part of the team that helps distribute these funds, and so now my time off work I was going to use to come speak to you today is now being used to deliver rent funds. The last of our funds that we have raised.

I am going to speak from my perspective because that is the one I have, but I need you to know that what I say echoes across so many others. My experience with this occupation is not unique. Most people I know have taken all their vacation time or time off work to help ensure that neighbors are safe and housed. Everyone is burning the candle at both ends to ensure that our neighbors are not abducted or evicted. And we are running out of resources.

Today you have a bill in front of you for \$50 million for rental assistance, and I am asking that you please approve this bill. We have SO many neighbors who had every reason to fear for their life if they left their home these last two months. Underhanded tactics at schools, bus stops, work sites, driving on the road, at the grocery store, helping someone with a fake broken car, the stories are endless. Their fear was justified, and that reality should not be their fault. Everyday working people here in the state are already sacrificing so much to do what they can to help, but we can't do it alone. We need elected officials to offer relief to everyone so that we can breathe a little easier, get back to work, shop at our local stores and support our small businesses. We all need to do our part and I believe the people of MN are doing their part, we need you to do yours.

Another tool that is at your disposal specifically is the bill to extend the eviction notice from 14 days to 30 days. You have no idea how much those extra days mean in being able to organize to try to find relief and funding for these families. It is a matter of housed or unhoused when shelters are already over capacity. This turns homelessness in the middle of MN winter into a life or death situation. I beg you to please extend the eviction notice. It also extends relief to neighbors who also are just deeply struggling under rising costs across the board.

These bills don't just help a few, they help so many who are in need for a variety of reasons. These bills support the most vulnerable of fixed income, those hiding in fear, those out of work, those making life or death decisions for survival. MN has showed that it can care for one another. Please do your part to remind us that we are not alone in that.

Thank you for hearing from the voices of those impacted by operation Metro Surge. While the drawdown has given folks some breathing room, the financial impact and cost is going to hurt us for a long time. I beg you to help offer relief to the families impacted and the community that is doing everything they can to help.

If you need to reach me for further comment or understanding, you can contact me at 612-227-0410 or by email.

Leaning on you,

Danielle Tietjen