

The Committee of 100

on the Federal City



**Statement to the
Council of the District of Columbia Committee on Housing and Neighborhood
Revitalization
on
September 24, 2020**

Chairperson Anita Bonds and Members of the Committee,

My name is Caroline Petti. I'm testifying as a member of the Committee of 100 and past Chairperson and current member of the Committee of 100's Housing Subcommittee.

Rent control -- rent stabilization -- is a critical component of the quiver of tools available for maintaining the affordability of housing in the District of Columbia.

It is alarming the extent to which loopholes in the current rent control statute are being exploited to undermine the integrity of the program. These loopholes are dramatically eroding the number of affordable units that would otherwise be available. Voluntary agreements have been particularly pernicious in this regard.

Bill 23-878 establishes a a two-year moratorium on voluntary agreements. Rather than a temporary pause, our preference is that this Committee and the Council move forward with legislation to abolish voluntary agreements.

Indeed, our hope is that this Committee and the Council will move forward to strengthen and expand the rent stabilization program with an omnibus set of legislative reforms such as those advocated by the Reclaim Rent Control coalition. We commend you for scheduling a hearing on November 5, 2020 on Councilmember Brianne Nadeau and Trayon White's Bill 23-873 "Rent Stabilization Program Reform and Expansion Amendment Act of 2020".

Caroline Petti
(202) 236-5339
carolinepetti@yahoo.com