

The Committee of 100

on the Federal City



PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Kirby Vining

nulliparaacnestis@gmail.com

(202) 213-2690

C100 Supports Ten-year Extension of Rent Control ***Marlin Cites Need to Protect Affordable Housing Stock***

The Committee of 100 on the Federal City announced its strong support on Wednesday for the ten-year extension of the District’s rent control program. The position was submitted to the Council’s Committee on Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization, Councilmember Anita Bonds, Chair.

Extending the present program for another decade, as the Rental Housing Act Extension Act of 2019 (Bill 23-0433) would do, is a necessary first step to protect the shrinking stock of affordable rental housing in controlled buildings. The need for continued rent control is supported by a 2014 Urban Institute study that found that one-half of renters pay more than 30 percent of their income for housing. In addition, nearly 30 percent pay more than 50 percent for rent.

C100 member David Marlin, a member of the city’s first Rental Housing Commission, 1981-85 appointed by Mayor Marion Barry, submitted the testimony. Marlin complimented the Council for largely succeeding “in its efforts to be fair to both property owners and tenants, a formidable task,” adding that the C100 “encourages Council efforts to improve and expand the rent control program by separate legislation.”
