



The Honorable Sandra L. Thompson, Director
Federal Housing Finance Agency
Constitution Center
400 7th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20219

Re: Public Input on Tenant Protections

Dear Ms. Thompson:

Thank you for opening a public input process on tenant protections. [Healthy and Free Tennessee](#) is a statewide organization building the movement for reproductive justice in Tennessee. We advocate for the rights of all Tennesseans to live free and healthy lives where their human rights to choose to have a child, choose not to have a child, and to raise that child in safe and healthy communities, free from oppression, are recognized.

We want to be clear: the current housing crisis in Tennessee impacts ALL Tennesseans' reproductive lives. First and foremost, housing insecurity impacts families' ability to meaningfully choose to have (more) children. This pressure is not felt equitably in Tennessee, with [nearly half of Black and Latine families with children saying they have little or no confidence in their ability to pay their next rent or mortgage payment](#). These numbers are staggering, but perhaps even more cruel are [the Tennessee laws that allow for child removal and termination of parental rights on the grounds of housing instability](#). No family should have to fear separation from their children over housing issues, especially [when the state has continued to divest from our families and communities](#) to fill state coffers and line the pockets of nonprofits and businesses that offer failed solutions.

Housing instability also impacts Tennesseans' ability to access healthcare, including reproductive healthcare. People experiencing housing instability [are more likely to struggle to access abortion care](#) than those with stable housing. [Lack of access to safe and stable housing continues to exacerbate existing pregnancy healthcare disparities](#), resulting in worse outcomes and compounds the already severe racial disparity in maternal health and mortality due to structural and racial injustice.

Without significant protections for tenants and a complete and systematic change in the way housing operates in this state, we will continue to see families separated and suffering. We envision a world where all people have the material support they need to meaningfully decide for themselves if and how to grow and raise their families. Housing is a key part of that vision.



With that in mind, we ask you to consider all avenues available to your Department to institute strong tenant protections and support struggling families in Tennessee and across the country.

Thank you for your consideration of our comment, and please feel free to reach out to us at info@healthyandfreetn.org if you have any questions.

Respectfully,
Healthy and Free Tennessee