



March 22, 2023

Dear Governor Hochul, Lieutenant Governor Delgado, Senate Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins, and Assembly Speaker Heastie:

The undersigned organizations call on you to commit **\$250 Million in FY23** for the [Tenant Opportunity to Purchase \(TOPA\) Act in New York State](#) (Myrie S.221/Mitanyes A.3351).

TOPA would give tenants the right of first offer and right of first refusal when their building goes up for sale. Under TOPA, tenants could buy the building together and turn it into a limited equity cooperative, or work with a nonprofit or community land trust to convert it into a permanently affordable rental. If passed and funded, this bill could result in the creation of **over 20,000 social housing units** across the state over the next five years.

While landlords don't have to prioritize tenant purchase offers today, New York has a number of [success stories of tenants buying their buildings and operating them as permanently affordable housing](#). Without TOPA, landlords have every incentive to sell their building to corporate landlords, resulting in skyrocketing rents, increasing eviction rates, and housing market consolidation.

We have seen many successful TOPA conversions in Washington DC, which has had the law on the books for over forty years. Cities like San Francisco have more recently passed similar bills. The laws give residents more control over where they live, create a pathway for social housing expansion, and help slow gentrification.

As Senator Myrie's office aptly stated, "We're facing a housing crisis and a historic exodus of Black people from Brooklyn — TOPA would go a long way toward reversing those trends." ([Curbed, 2023](#))

Anti Displacement NYC  
Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development (ANHD)  
Bailey's Cafe  
Brooklyn Cooperative Federal Credit Union  
Brownsville Partnership  
Caribbean Equality Project  
Carroll Gardens Association  
Catholic Migration Services (CMS)  
Center for NYC Neighborhoods  
Chhaya Community Development Corporation  
Churches United For Fair Housing  
City Roots Community Land Trust  
Citywide Tenant Union of Rochester  
Community Allies



Community Service Society of New York  
Cooper Square Community Land Trust  
Cooper Square Committee  
CWTU  
East New York Community Land Trust  
El Puente de Williamsburg  
Equality for Flatbush (E4F)  
For the Many  
FWD Landscape  
Genesee Co-op Federal Credit Union  
Goddard Riverside  
Grow Brownsville  
Hester Street  
HOPE  
Housing Rights Initiative  
Neighbors Together  
New Economy Project  
New York City Community Land Initiative (NYCCLI)  
New York City Network of Worker Cooperatives  
North Star Fund  
NOT ONE MORE BLOCK  
NWBCCC - Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition  
NYC YOUTH SPORTS PODCAST SHOW INC.  
Open New York  
Picture the Homeless  
Pratt Center for Community Development  
RENA (Riverside -Edgecombe Neighborhood Association)  
TakeRoot Justice  
Theatre of the Oppressed NYC  
This Land Is Ours CLT  
TIMBER  
Tulinde, LLC  
UHAB  
United Neighbors Organization (UNO)  
United Tenants of Albany  
Universe City NYC  
Unlock NYC  
Urban Justice Center - Safety Net Project  
Village Preservation  
We Stay/Nos Quedamos  
Western Queens CLT  
Zara Tenant Coalition (ZTC)