

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE JULY 10, 1981

JOINT STATEMENT OF SENATORS TSONGAS AND KENNEDY OPPOSING SENATE  
RENT CONTROL PROVISIONS

We strongly oppose the controversial rent control provisions passed by the Senate which would deny federal housing subsidies to any communities with rent controls on new or vacant units.

We are working closely with representatives of the Massachusetts Tenants Organization to delete this provision from the Reconciliation Bill when the House and Senate Conferees meet on the issue next week.

This provision would be especially harmful to Brookline and Cambridge, where rent control has been critical in protecting affordable housing for low and moderate income tenants. It would force those communities to choose between rent control for tenants outside public housing and rent subsidies for tenants in public housing.

Rent control is unquestionably a proper matter for local communities to decide, and this intrusion by the Senate is unacceptable.

It is ironic that Republicans in the Senate, who support the Administration's "hands-off" approach to local government, would attempt to intrude on local housing policy in this fashion.