

Chairman and Committee,

I Stand before you today in support of House Bill 2099.  
Here is one of the stories.

For years, the Timberly Apartments (in Topeka, Ks.) have been ignored by HUD from regular and timely inspections in accordance with HUD policies for properties receiving governmental rental subsidies.

These properties have been scored below the federal guidelines for subsidizing housing. Causing them to be unsafe and inhumane living conditions.

The residence of these properties has been strongly encouraged not to speak to anyone, not to talk to the media or the state or the city representatives, but to come to the office and talk to the management if approached by anyone.

After a week of door-knocking with the council representative representing that district, we finally got access and were able to speak to the families.

After entering several of the properties, there was a strong sewage smell. The basement had anywhere between 6 inches to 12 inches of backup sewage along with black mold at least 2 feet up the walls.

Several days after our visit, emergency responders were called to the units, two baby girls had been exposed to carbon dioxide.

**(For Your Information)**

Maximum concentration is allowed by federal law. 200 PPM Headaches, dizziness, or nausea after 2 -3 hours. 400 PPM Severe headaches after 1-2 hours, death after 3 hours. 1,600 PPM Death in 1 hour. My understanding from the fire department that these levels at the apartment were in the 600 to 700 range. The city of Topeka immediately condemned several properties causing tenants to be relocated.

Two weeks ago, I received a phone call from a tenant that had no heat and wanted to know what she could do, during this time in Topeka the temperatures were in single digits 3 – 4

degrees and the wind gust of 40 miles an hour. Several families have not had heat all winter. Also, this past summer, many of these units did not have air-conditioning.

That is why I stand before you today asking you to please move Bill 2099 out of committee.

Thank you.

John Alcala,  
Representative, 57<sup>th</sup> District