



Cornell University
Student Assembly

February 13, 2020

The presence of Cornell University has driven up the cost of housing in Ithaca because of the necessity of short-term leases for students who rotate in and out of housing during their time at Cornell. This cycle allows landlords to lower the standard of living and raises the cost of housing for students and local residents.

We, the members of Cornell's undergraduate Student Assembly, support the creation of the Ithaca Tenants Union to collectively better housing conditions and prices in Ithaca and to support local residents and students living off-campus by informing them of their rights. We also support the group of both students and Ithaca community members to organize and or engage in any form of collective action such as withholding rent against non-compliant landlords.

Currently, human life in Ithaca is being disrespected as residents are frequently being denied the right to heat, working water systems, locks on doors, and more. While the tenancy issue affects all students, we must acknowledge the socio-economic diversity of our student body and the lack of resources for residents unable to access help because of socio-economic limitations. Especially for these residents, a Tenants Union is necessary to serve as a resource to bring about justice and raise the standard of living. We must also recognize the essentiality of including local residents in the Union as they are the first to be negatively impacted by this institution. Most workers that work at Cornell do not live in the Ithaca area due to higher rent.

All people have a right to fair living standards, and while we hope that landlords will comply with the law without the Union having to act, we support the existence of the Union as a check on the abuses we see repeatedly occur. We uphold the principles of economic justice, dignity for all tenants, and housing justice.

In solidarity,

The Cornell Student Assembly