

Brooke Miller
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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE HOME ACT, BILL 16-23 AND IN OPPOSITION TO BILL 15-23

My name is Brooke Miller and I am a resident in District 4 of Montgomery County. I am testifying because I support the HOME Act, Bill 16-23 and oppose Bill 15-23. I ask that the Council support the HOME Act to provide stable rents in Montgomery County and ensure that all residents are provided affordable housing.

I moved into Montgomery County about a year ago. Even with a stable income, it was difficult to find affordable housing that connected me to necessary community structures (such as grocery stores and transportation). My rent will increase by 3% at the end of my year-long lease. Even this modest increase threatens my ability to remain in my home. After only one year of living in the county, I am nearly being priced out of my apartment. I would not be able to survive the 15% rental increases that could come with the passage of Councilmember Fani-Gonzalez' Bill 15-23. Bill 15-23 caters to the desires of small groups of people with outsized influence, such as building developers, and their interests. It does not speak to the concerns of the residents. This community will pay the consequences for actions that are not ours, that we never invited, and that we do not support. To threaten stable housing through codified 15% increases threatens the very fabric of a community.

I support the HOME Act as it seeks to protect renters, like myself and my neighbors, from rent gouges. I hope the Council shows its support for the residents of this community and passes the HOME Act Bill 16-23.