

Katherine Head



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE HOME ACT, BILL 16-23;
AND IN OPPOSITION TO THE 'ANTI-RENT GOUGING' BILL 15-23**

My name is Katherine Head and I am from Brookeville, MD (District 7). I am testifying because I support the HOME Act, Bill 16-23. I am 25 years old and I am on disability due to my chronic illnesses. Due to my fixed income, I made the choice to live with my family because of the skyrocketing cost of rent. Someday I would like to move out on my own, but my choices are limited. The average cost of rent in Montgomery County is hundreds of dollars more than my monthly income. I could never afford to move out of my family home in this county. If I wanted to stay in this county and live independently, I would need external support. I wouldn't be truly independent. And that is distressing. I should be able to afford to live in this county. I'm testifying because, as a Montgomery County resident of 19 years, I want to stay in this county that I love. I don't want to have to move away to live independently. There is no feasible way for me to live in Montgomery County on my own with these rent prices. The cost of rent is too high. This affects everyone, not just me. Far too many people have the problem of not being able to afford rent, whether they are on a fixed income or not. I'm asking the Council to support the HOME Act because it is important to our community. There are people that are being left behind with these rising rent prices. We should be supporting everyone in their right to a safe and stable home in Montgomery County. I demand that the Council pass rent stabilization with a cap no higher than 3% to protect all renters in this county that we call home.