

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

My name is Kereknaan Fiannaan, and I live and work from Wheaton, MD, a place I've come to love since I moved here last year.

I am testifying in support of Bill 16-23 - The HOME Act because everyone deserves to have a safe and stable home, without fear of displacement.

The HOME Act will ensure that rent increases will be capped at a reasonable amount of no more than 3%. The bill also guarantees fair return for developers and exempts deeply affordable housing, places of worship, and new construction for 10 years. If we believe that the people of Montgomery County really deserve safe and stable housing, then we must support this Bill, not Bill 15-23, which will essentially codify double-digit rent increases and lead to increases in displacement and homelessness.

I just moved to Montgomery County last year because of a significant rent increase that made it impossible for me to afford my former apartment. I was forced to seek more affordable housing and don't want to live in fear of experiencing the same again, especially as I'm building a community here. I know my story is true for many other individuals and families all over the U.S. many of whom are in an even more vulnerable position than I am. We have an opportunity to change that here in Montgomery County.

Support the HOME Act, support Housing safety and stability!  
Support the HOME Act, support our communities!