Dear Montgomery County Council,

My name is Maria Santos. I am a Montgomery County resident and a mother of three. I reside at the Rock Creek Woods Apartments, where my family and neighbors are dealt with deplorable living conditions, lease terminations, and unjust evictions.

My family has resided at Rock Creek for about 7 years. Our rent has always been paid. Every year our rents go up substantially while conditions and repairs grow worse and worse. These conditions include mold, cracks on walls and ceilings, mice infestation, poor management, rent increase of at least 4-6%, and much more. In the attempt to speak with management to have our issues fixed, we have been told to leave the property or face eviction. When we tried to ask why they were kicking us out, they aggressively said, "Because we can."

I am imploring you to NOT support Bill 15-23: The Anti-Rent Gouging Bill introduced by Councilmember Natali Fani-González. My fellow neighbors and I were appalled to hear that the very same council member who came and saw firsthand the conditions that we lived in would be comfortable with letting a slumlord like ours have the capability of raising our rent to 8%+. Not only is it not justifiable considering the conditions and abuse that we suffer on a daily basis, but it is inequitable.

The living conditions and excessive rent increase have caused my family anguish and distress. It has been extremely difficult to find a new home at an affordable price. We are forced to search outside Montgomery County, affecting our children's education and jobs.

As a resident of the County, I believe that it is critical that we put people first. I am you to STRONGLY VOTE NO on the Anti-Rent Gouging Bill 15:23.

Sincerely,

Maria Santos