

**Myla Leung**



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

Dear Montgomery County Council Members,

My name is Myla, and I am a high school student from District 1 of Montgomery County. I am testifying because I support the HOME Act, Bill 16-23. In order to ensure everyone has access to safe and stable housing, we must pass rent stabilization with a cap no higher than 3%.

I am incredibly fortunate to live in a home and area of privilege; however, I have seen my friends and teachers from surrounding communities face the impact of skyrocketing rents. If 60% of public school teachers in Montgomery County can not afford to live in Montgomery County, how can we expect them to commute to a community they can not call their own? Moreover, several of my friends and students across the country experience housing insecurity. Their families struggle to pay for food, clothes, and healthcare costs, and students are preoccupied with extracurricular activities and schoolwork. Housing is a human right and should not be a burden for families, students, and teachers.

Furthermore, rent stabilization provides predictability about rental increases. It is an essential tool for decreasing the County’s current crisis of evictions, displacement, and homelessness and for establishing a new source of income for Montgomery County.

Council members, I urge you to consider my testimony and support the Home Act Bill. Regardless of race, income, or ethnicity, *everyone* deserves to live without the fear of losing our homes. With the Home Act Bill, we can empower voices that have been largely marginalized.

Sincerely,  
Myla Leung