

Dear Montgomery County Council,

As the Montgomery County CASA community organizing team, we urge you to support Rent Stabilization Bill 16-23: The **Housing Opportunity, Mobility, and Equity Act**. The HOME ACT is vital for the survival of immigrant, black and brown, and low-income families across our community.

Our county's rising cost of living has put many of these families in precarious housing situations. The HOME ACT would provide crucial relief for these families by preventing unjust and arbitrary rent increases, which can force them out of their homes and communities.

Immigrant families, mainly, are vulnerable to displacement due to rising rents. Many of these families have experienced displacement in their home countries and come to our county seeking safety and stability. We must ensure they are not further traumatized by being pushed out of their homes due to rising rents.

Black and brown families, who have historically been subject to systemic discrimination in housing, often resulting from gentrification, unjust rent increases, and displacement, also stand to benefit from the HOME ACT. We can help preserve these communities and ensure they continue having access to affordable housing in our county.

Low-income families, who often struggle to make ends meet, are especially vulnerable to eviction and homelessness due to rising rents. The HOME ACT can provide a much-needed safety net for these families, ensuring they are not priced out of their homes and communities.

Stable housing is essential for creating thriving communities and supporting economic development. By keeping families in their homes and communities, we can ensure that our county remains a vibrant and inclusive place to live, work, and raise a family.

For these reasons and many more, we urge you to support the HOME ACT, a meaningful rent stabilization policy that would work towards creating a fair and equitable housing market for all families in our community.

Sincerely,

*Alex Vazquez*

*Claudia Sacramento*

*Nayireth Castro*

*Jessica Guerrero*