

Dear Montgomery County Council,

Good evening, my name is Marie Solange, I'm a mother of 3 daughters, I live in Montgomery County, and I'm a part-time support of people living with disabilities in Rockville with Community Options Inc.

I am writing to ask for your support of Rent Stabilization Bill 16-23: The Housing Opportunity, Mobility, and Equity Act in MoCo. Tenants need to know that if their rent increases, it will be by a reasonable amount of money, no more than 3% of their current rent for the next 12 months.

For me, rent stabilization contributes to the improvement of living conditions because you can plan all the expenses in advance, which will certainly save you from certain ailments caused by stress.

I live in an apartment that I was paying at \$1749, I received a notification at the end of 2022 that my rent went to \$2099 at the beginning of this year without having a stable income. My children are not with me in addition, they lost their dad in September 2022, how am I going to have to pay for their schooling with my modest income, since the beginning of the year it has been some members of my family who have paid for their food, clothes and their health problems, how long will they do it? I don't know!!!!

When tenants are forced to leave because of excessive rent increases, it hurts not just that particular tenant but all of us. Schools are destabilized when families are forced to move. Jobs are lost when tenants move far away to afford the rent. Communities are uprooted when tenants can no longer stay in housing they may have occupied for years.

As a resident of the County, I believe that it is critical that we put people first. I am asking for a YES vote on the HOME Act, Bill 16-23.

Sincerely,

Marie Solange NGOUEKO Epse DJUITCHOKO

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