Dear Montgomery County Council,

Good evening, my name is Michelle Mbeume. I'm 30 years old, I'm an immigrant living in Montgomery County, I'm an unemployed young lady without a job who is trying to organize a life of her own.

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.

I understand rent stabilization as a policy of Montgomery County to stop Landlord abuse against renters.

For 2 years I have lived in a one bedroom apartment. The price was \$1200 when I got in. To the beginning of this year the landlord has asked me to pay \$1400 which corresponds to an increase of 14% that is enough and I can't afford

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.

