Dear Montgomery County Council,

My name is Sara Martinez. I was recently residing in Rockville MD with my son and two step children. Trying to make ends meet and barely being about to pay the already high living costs in Montgomery County.

Our Landlord kept threatening of kicking our family out to the street if we did not agree to the 6% increase they wanted to charge almost immediately. We were in a two-bedroom apartment paying almost \$2,000. The living conditions were very poor and the Landlord became very hostile every time we tried to communicate the issues with them. The washer and dryer did not work properly and it became mandatory to have to wash at a laundromat. The floor tiles were coming apart, plumbing was a constant issue and there was almost never any hot water.

One day after and exceedingly long day at work, I came home to the most heart wrenching scene. It was pouring rain and traffic was heavy so I got home later than usual. ALL of my children were outside on the street soaked! I look around and our belongings had been thrown out of the house. Our Landlord physically removed all of my children out of the apartment and into the street. EVERYTHING we owned was damaged. We had nowhere to go. We were later placed in a shelter. The trauma my children went through just because someone wanted to raise the rent prices in disgusting!

PLEASE support the Rent Stabilization Bill 16-23: The Housing Opportunity, Mobility, and Equity Act in Montgomery County. 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.

My family did not deserve to go through such an extremely traumatic experience!

NO family deserves to be treated in such manner!

Our children deserve better!

Sincerely,

Sara Martinez