Dear Montgomery County Council,

Good evening, my Somian Boussoma Nadege, I'm 27 years old, I'm a mom of 9 months old son, I live in Montgomery county, I'm undocumented immigrant.

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 the Montgomery county law to help us to keep our house.

I have been renting an apartment in white oak for 2 years, the increase in rental prices applied by the landlord puts me in stress because I do not understand how he defines the rate of increase, the year 2022 all my income was used only to pay the rent, I paid the rest of the bills with the credit that I contacted with friends. For this year, the details of the increases are as follows: 7% for the one-year contract; 12% for the 2-year contract and 4% for the month-to-month contract. I'm overwhelmed and don't know what to do

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,
Somian Boussoma Nadege
[redacted]