

Testimony
In Favor: HB0477—Just-Cause , Local Enabling
Lindsay Bouie, 718-930-3801
MD House of Delegates, Environment & Transportation Committee – February 13, 2024, 1:00pm

Hello and thank you to the committee for hearing my testimony. My name is Lindsay Bouie. My husband and I and our two small children are renters and we live in Gaithersburg.

I'd like to start by thanking Delegate Wilkins and the co-sponsors for introducing this important legislation that could make a real difference in the lives of many renters.

Last year I testified in support of this bill and I continue to support it now, because I know and have seen the impact this bill could have for myself, my family and my neighbors. The stability of a home is extremely important to us. We have formed deep roots in our community. Our son is a second-grader at Thurgood Marshall Elementary School, where I serve on the PTA. We have family close by and we consider ourselves permanent members of our community.

In Montgomery County we have local officials who support protecting renters from landlords refusing to renew a lease without providing a valid reason.

But if this committee and the rest of our state legislature will not allow cities and counties to enact just-cause eviction protections, families like ours, along with senior citizens,, veterans, we are all in constant threat of being told to leave our homes with just 60 days' notice.

Our son's elementary school boundaries are drawn such that no other multi-family properties feed into his school. So for us and our neighbors with younger kids, a non-renewal notice means a certain change in schools for our children.

And with 40% of the student body residing in our almost 800-unit apartment complex, the stress that comes with unstable housing inevitably spreads to teachers and staff and the community as a whole.

Our PTA is well aware of socio-economic hardships facing many families in our apartment community and is working hard to create an inclusive, supportive and *stable* environment for all our learners.

Just-cause eviction protection would help our families and educators do their job better.

We are good neighbors who pay our rent. We deserve to live our lives free of anxiety that our son or any of his friends will have to change elementary schools, not by choice, but for no good reason.

That's why I encourage the members of this committee to not only support Delegate Wilkins' just-cause eviction bill, but to urge your colleges to do so as well.

Thank you.