



Helping People, Changing Lives

March 6, 2024

The Honorable Joanne C. Benson
Maryland Senate
201 James Senate Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Senator Benson,

The Anne Arundel County Community Action Agency strongly supports Senate Bill 992, Tenants Possessions Recovery Act, which will offer protection to tenants who are being evicted from their homes by giving them extended notice to evict and to give tenants ten days to reclaim their property after eviction.

The Community Action Agency works with Anne Arundel County residents who are facing eviction, as well as those who have been evicted. We realize that not only do evicted residents lose a roof over their heads, but many also lose their personal possessions and dignity through a very public and traumatic eviction process. Household members lose their financial records, family heirlooms and keepsakes, and even pets during the process. If SB 992 is passed, tenants will be given 14 days' notice prior to their eviction, allowing tenants to plan accordingly to retain or reclaim their possessions.

Forty-six states in the U.S. currently have legislation in place that provides notice to the tenant of their eviction date and/or a reclamation period post-eviction for tenants to gather their belongings. We encourage the Senate to pass this bill which bring Maryland law into alignment with the majority of states and the District of Columbia. SB 992 would give tenants and landlords concrete dates for when they need to reclaim their property and when landlords are able to actually begin discarding left possessions.

I respectfully support SB 992 which you are sponsoring, to benefit Maryland households during the eviction process.

Respectfully yours,

Charlestine R. Fairley, PhD, Chief Executive Officer

Anne Arundel County Community Action Agency, Inc.
251 West Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401