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Dr. Pamela Brown, Ph.D.
Executive Director

March 6, 2024

SUPPORT – SB0992- Real Property – Landlord and Tenant – Procedures for Failure to Pay Rent, Breach of Lease, and Tenant Holding Over

Dear Senators:

On behalf of the Anne Arundel County Partnership for Children, Youth, and Families, I am writing in support of SB 0992 to have additional requirements for landlords when filing a warrant of restitution in a failure to pay rent, breach of lease, or tenant holding over action, and also requiring tenants to be able to recover personal property after the execution of a warrant.

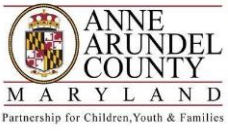
The Partnership for Children, Youth, and Families currently runs a rapid rehousing program and meets families struggling to pay their rent every day. We also conduct community needs assessments and know that we are in a housing crisis, with exorbitant costs and stipulations for renters. This disproportionately impacts low income families struggling to make ends meet. Protecting tenant's rights is essential for families to gain economic stability.

SB 0992 will give tenants access to their personal property after an eviction. Being evicted and then experiencing significant barriers to obtaining assistance that you and your children need is catastrophic. Food, clothing, medication, birth certificates, social security cards, and mementos of lost family members, at minimum, leave an evicted family with significant barriers to assistance and survival. One of the families we have served is a single grandmother who is caring for her grandson. After eviction she lost her medication, walker, and all of the grandson's clothing and memories of his deceased mother, along with all documents of legal custody. Another family we served is a single mom with mental health challenges and a disabled son who uses a wheelchair. They also lost everything, including mental health medication for mom, a multitude of medications for the son with cerebral palsy, a breathing apparatus, diapers, among other items. Now along with the barriers to finding affordable housing, these families will have to rebuild the necessary supplies they need for daily life.

We urge you to support SB0992 - Real Property – Landlord and Tenant – Procedures for Failure to Pay Rent, Breach of Lease, and Tenant Holding Over to protect Maryland families.

Sincerely,

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