

My name is Sahid Suma. I am a tenant who has been evicted and has lost their personal possessions. I support Senate Bill 992 because it would have allowed me to vacate the property with the dignity of knowing that I would not lose my personal belongings as well.

On December of 2023 I was evicted from my home and subsequently I lost a number of personal belongings. On the day of my eviction, I had been aware that I owed money and had sent my landlord the rent payment by Western Union in the full amount. However, because I had only the receipt confirming that the payment was sent and the landlord had not received the payment, I was evicted. While this was devastating to me, it was particularly important that I be able to at least collect all my personal belongings and professional equipment.

I work in IT and I am a firearms instructor and I have a number of expensive work and office equipment. Initially, my landlord told me that I would be able to get my property within 7 days of my eviction, which I obliged. I was able to get a few items, however, because of the holiday season it was difficult for me to rent a truck for my larger items. Despite this I was fortunate enough to find a rental truck and was prepared to pick up the larger items on the 7<sup>th</sup> day. However, the landlord denied me access to my own belongings.

The landlord stated that they would not allow me to get my belongings and I was never able to recover my remaining possessions. I lost instructors manuals and tools, I lost business calendars and items that were essential to my employment. Personally, I lost my diploma which I cherished because I worked hard for it as someone who had to live on their own at the age of 16. That was irreplaceable and I suffered heavy personal loss.

Renters need and deserve reliable notice of the eviction date so that they can exercise their statutory right of redemption or make plans to leave the property with their belongings intact Equally, Maryland renters deserve a reclamation period after the eviction occurs, to mitigate the financial and personal loss that evictions cause. Had Senate Bill 992 been law, I would have been able to get my

personal belongings and would have been able to transition much easier. I hope no Marylander experiences the loss I have dealt with.

I, urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 992.