

TESTIMONY Maryland General Assembly Environmental and Transportation Committee In Favor of HB642

Matt Losak 301-588-3987 Executive Director, Montgomery County Renters Alliance, Inc. Feb. 3, 2021

Good afternoon, Chairman Barve and Vice Chair Stein, Committee Members. My name is Matt Losak and I am a co-founder and Executive Director of the Montgomery Count Renters Alliance—an alliance of more than 30 labor, community, religious, political and civic action organizations and thousands of renters. We are Maryland's first and only regional nonprofit dedicated exclusively to renter outreach, education, organizing and advocacy.

The Renters Alliance strongly supports any effort to eliminate unreasonable or inaccurate reporting that might prevent an individual or family from find a home.

We have seen Marylanders denied an apartment home because of inaccurate or outdated information, sometimes because they have been misidentified with someone else, other times because of false reporting generated by a tenant screening company or consumer reporting agency.

We trust that this committee can see the value of credit reporting accuracy for both renters and landlords, and the Delegate Palakovich-Carr for her leadership on this bill.

We strongly urge a favorable report.

Thank you

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