

My name is Toni Strong Pratt,

Great day all. I'm submitting testimony to support legislation entered by Delegate Shaneeka Henson. House Bill HB0129/SB0070. I'm in favor of this bill for various reasons. The most important reason is because people are and have been suffering with many health issues and their quality of life has deteriorated because there has previously been no checks and balances to control the mold and air quality in their homes! I work with residents on almost a daily basis that are living with mold and the effects of mold! I can remember organizing in communities and the smell of the mold would meet me at the door! I thought that was the worst of it until I was escorted through the house and witnessed first hand the silent killer Black Mold. The mold covered their doors, their ceilings, their walls, their children's room, their room and somehow the landlords and powers that found this acceptable! The irony of it all is that they blamed the residents for their lack of attention to the problem! No longer can we continue to apply a bandaid over what has developed into gangrene! We must once and for all put restraints on the landlords and persons who choose not to address these issues! No longer can this be business as usual when people's lives are at stake. I want to leave you with this question and please think about it before you cast your vote? If this was you or your family member or your child living in these conditions that continue to go unaddressed would this be acceptable to you? If you answered no then I ask you to join me in voting in favor of this bill that holds the people that are supposed to address this accountable! There was a 2020 lawsuit that was filed mainly because of this mold issues and discrimination by many residents in HACA and they were successful. I beg you please don't be like those who turn a blind eye and do nothing! As legislators you have the responsibility to do what's in the best interest of your constituents! Let's start 2021 off of a favorable not a vote yes for House Bill HB0129/SB0070. Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Sincerely,

Toni Strong Pratt