



Light House

A HOMELESS PREVENTION SUPPORT CENTER

Eviction Shielding Legislation Testimony

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The Light House Shelter, Annapolis MD

Seeing the word “eviction” associated with a tenants name, can be the difference between housing and homelessness in Maryland; an unforgivable housing landscape with few opportunities to access affordable housing, and even fewer for those suffering from the domino effects of eviction.

This is especially true in the case of Terra; an AACO single mom of three. Unable to keep up with the rent and ongoing cost of childcare, she fell behind and was evicted. Bouncing from one unstable place to the next, she put her name in the wait pool for a subsidy. She stayed in “survival mode” and was not able to pay back the past due rent from her eviction.

Not fully understanding the legal repercussions of an eviction, she was thrilled to finally receive word several months ago, that she was eligible for a housing subsidy. Relief was in sight.

Once her application was fully processed, the past eviction immediately deemed her ineligible for the housing subsidy. With nowhere to go, Terra and her children ended up in a shelter. This is an example of a family who *could* have been housed and never have experienced homelessness.

Now more than ever, this legislation is essential to ward off the impending eviction crisis that lays ahead for Marylanders.

Princeton Universities, Eviction Lab, states that there could be a potential of up to 23 million Americans facing eviction when the moratoriums are lifted.

We at the LH know, and research bears out the fact, that eviction OFTEN leads to homelessness. The shadow cast by eviction is long and unforgiving; families desperately need reprieve in the form of this shielding legislation.

Please support HB0112; Marylanders need to be able to secure housing without the specter of evictions past holding them back.

Sources:

Leckrone, Bennett. 12/7/2020. "Looming Homeless Crisis". Maryland Matters.

Cohen, Josh. 7/24/20. "What happens if 23 million are evicted?". Shelterforce.