



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

March 31, 2022

TO: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Marc Elrich
County Executive

RE: House Bill 918, *Montgomery County – Landlord and Tenant – Tenant Access to Cable Television Systems and Equipment MC 01-22*
Support

House Bill 918 would prohibit a landlord from preventing a cable TV company from accessing a rental unit to install new equipment if a tenant has requested it. The bill would also prohibit a landlord from imbedding in rental or other charges discriminatory fees based on a cable TV subscription. The proposal includes other requirements pertaining to compensation, indemnification, and enforcement through the court system and local legislation.

I support this legislation. It establishes an even playing field for all the stakeholders, particularly tenants who may find themselves with few cable TV provider options, because there were incentives for landlords or cable TV companies to restrict broader access, or the hurdles, financial or otherwise, were too great to overcome.

Passage of this legislation would allow Montgomery County to join Anne Arundel County and the District of Columbia, both of which have put local laws in place establishing frameworks meeting similar objectives to House Bill 918. I urge the committee to vote favorably on this legislation.

cc: Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee