



TESTIMONY
Maryland General Assembly
Environmental and Transportation Committee
In Favor of SB0529 with Amendment

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The Montgomery County Renters Alliance is 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 is in favor of **SB 529**, and we thank Senators Benson, Petterson, Lee and Sydnor for their sponsorship of this legislation.

The Renters Alliance with increasing regularly hears from tenants about bed bug infestations. Seniors, children and working families' lives can be substantially impacted and destabilized by bed bug infestations and the bites these insects cause.

Unfortunately, we have also seen landlords and property manager neglect to address the infestation reports, and worse, attempt to blame and charge the tenants for bed bug exterminations.

We request one amendment in (A) 1, II

**(II) A RENTAL AGREEMENT MAY PROVIDE FOR A DIFFERENT 1
MINIMUM NOTICE THAN THE NOTICE PERIOD REQUIRED UNDER
SUBPARAGRAPH, PROVIDED IT IS NOT LESS THAN 48 HOURS.**

Bed bugs are a growing health hazard for renters and their abatement and control must be required by law with no less mandate than how we require the extermination of rats and vermin.

We strongly urge a favorable report.

Thank you

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