



Krystal Oriadha
Council Member
District 7

Ready To Serve!

February 23, 2022

Chair Kumar P. Barve, Vice-Chair Dana Stein, and the Environment and Transportation Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
84 College Ave Ste 364
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Barve, Vice Chair Stein and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

I am pleased to be writing to you today in support of House Bill 684. As a member of the Prince George's County Council and with alignment to the People's Agenda, I believe that housing is a human right. In Prince George's, we have experienced the housing crisis that came with the pandemic. Residents have not been able to afford their rents due to high costs and high increases in rent. Yearly, rent increases continue to rise as high as 51% for individuals and families who are still recovering from the economic strains that many experienced because of the pandemic.

At the local level, I am working with advocates and stakeholders to ensure that Prince Georgians are able to remain in their homes and our region for job opportunities, school quality, and cultural diversity. Through several Council Bills, we hope to stabilize housing so that it is accessible to all county residents. House Bill 684 would give this Council the opportunity to continue with those efforts by giving local governments the authority to prohibit landlords from failing to renew a lease without just cause. This would allow local bodies of government, the Council where I currently serve, to create legislation that will protect tenants from arbitrary or unfair lease termination. It will benefit low-income tenants and promote racial equity.

At a time when Prince George's and the state of Maryland are at an all time high in the cost of living, food, transportation and housing, I urge you to pass this bill, so that the Prince George's County Council can deliver a sense of stability to tenants. I respectfully urge for a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Krystal Oriadha
Councilmember, District 7