

Testimony
In Favor: HB0684—Just-Cause , Local Enabling
Lindsay Bouie, 718-930-3801
MD House of Delegates, Environment & Transportation Committee – February 24, 2023

Hello and thank you to the committee for hearing my testimony. My name is Lindsay Bouie. My husband and I and our two small children are renters and we live in Gaithersburg.

I'd like to start by thanking Delegate Wilkins and the co-sponsors for introducing this important legislation that could make a real difference in the lives of many renters.

The stability of a home for us and our neighbors is extremely important. We have formed deep roots in our community. Our son is a first-grader at Thurgood Marshall Elementary School, where I serve on the PTA. We have family close by and we see ourselves not just as temporary visitors, but as permanent, long-term residents.

Here in Montgomery County, we have local officials who support protecting renters from landlords refusing to renew a lease without providing a valid reason.

But if our legislature fails to permit our county to enact just-cause eviction protections, families like ours, along with senior citizens,, veterans, we are all in constant threat of being told to leave our homes with just 60 days' notice.

As month-to-month tenants ourselves, that leaves us wondering each month will such notice arrive? Our family needs to know that our home cannot be taken away from us at any time for any reason that they don't have to reveal.

Our son's elementary school boundaries are drawn such that no other multi-family properties feed into that school. So for us and our neighbors with younger kids, a non-renewal notice means a certain change in schools for our children.

And with 40% of the student body residing in our apartment complex alone, the stress that comes with unstable housing inevitably spreads to teachers and staff and the community as a whole.

We are good neighbors who pay our rent. We deserve to live our lives free of anxiety that our son or any of his friends will have to change elementary schools, not by choice, but for no good reason.

That's why I encourage the members of this committee to not only support Delegate Wilkins' just-cause eviction bill, but to urge your colleges to do so as well.

Thank you.