

Date of Hearing 2/20/24

Emily C Blank
Brentwood, MD

TESTIMONY ON HB693 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Renters Rights and Stabilization Act of 2024

TO: Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Emily C. Blank

OPENING: My name is Emily C Blank. I am a resident of District (47a). I am submitting this testimony in support of (HB693), Renters Rights and Stabilization Act of 2024.

I am a member of Congregation Oseh Shalom and taught in the economics department at Howard University until I retired last year. I am also involved with the Poor People's Campaign.

I firmly believe that raising the filing fee for eviction procedures from \$8 to \$93 and preventing the landlord(lady) from charging the tenant for that fee will serve the citizens of Maryland. The fee of \$93 will provide a disincentive for landlords to file eviction proceedings for frivolous reasons, but is not large enough to discourage a landlord who is seriously injured. I further think it is a good idea to limit the amount of cash the tenant must front at the beginning of the tenant-landlord relationship.

Given the housing shortage and the high cost of the housing that IS available, it is important that tenants be protected from abuse by landlords.: **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB693.**