

Date of Hearing 2/13/2024

Emily C. Blank
Brentwood, MD

TESTIMONY ON HB477 EmilyBlank - POSITION:FAVORABLE
Just Cause Eviction

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

FROM: Emily C. Blank

My name is Emily Blank. I am a resident of District 47a. I am submitting this testimony for HB477.

I am a member of Congregation Oseh Shalom in Laurel, MD. I retired from teaching economics at Howard University in May 2023.

I am strongly of the opinion that every citizen deserves housing. Housing directly impacts one's health and quality of life. Jewish tradition teaches that housing is a human right and providing housing is an obligatory form of *tzedakah* (charity). Since the pandemic, and probably before, finding decent, affordable housing has been becoming more and more difficult.

Therefore, landlords should not evict tenants from housing without a very good reason. No one should be deprived of his or her housing at the whim of a landlord, or as retaliation for renter complaints. **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB477.**