

Veronica Walker

SB 644— Landlord and Tenant - Residential Leases and Holdover Tenancies - Local Just Cause Termination Provisions

Position: Favorable

My name is Veronica Walker. I live in Baltimore City, and I urge the Committee to give a favorable report on SB 644 that will let the counties and Baltimore pass their own just cause eviction laws.

I began renting my current home in June 2023 because it's right next door to my sister. I have a disability, so it's important to have family nearby.

Right away there were issues. The floors are crooked, water drips out of the ceiling. When the bathroom in the other tenant's unit gets blocked up, it blocks up my bathroom too. I reached out to the landlord about everything that needed to be fixed. Absolutely nothing has been done.

After I notified the landlord of the issues, instead of trying to fix anything, my landlord sent me a notice to non-renew my lease and vacate the unit. I want a better place to live, but it's costly to move, and not easy to find a place just like that.

I haven't done anything wrong, but my landlord is trying to evict me instead of fixing the issues with the property they are supposed to fix. SB 644 would let Baltimore City pass a law that would require my landlord to state a real reason for trying to evict me. I followed all of the rules. The landlord is the one who is trying to avoid spending money to fix the property which is a danger to me and all of my neighbors. Please vote for SB 644 so that Baltimore and other counties can pass laws that bring more fairness and stability for residents like me.