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Deedee Jacobsohn
North Bethesda, Maryland

**Testimony on SB0644—Position: Favorable
Landlord and Tenant - Residential Leases and Holdover Tenancies - Local
Just Cause Termination Provisions**

My name is Deedee Jacobsohn and I am a resident of District 16 in Montgomery County. I am submitting this testimony **in support of SB0644: Landlord and Tenant - Residential Leases and Holdover Tenancies - Local Just Cause Termination Provisions.**

I am a volunteer member of several organizations that are fighting for safe, secure, affordable housing in Montgomery County. I have heard many distressing stories from tenants experiencing housing insecurity. But the most infuriating stories were from immigrant women who were fighting for their communities and found themselves losing their homes when their landlords evicted them by not renewing their leases.

These women were doing amazing things—organizing food hubs, pushing for more outdoor lights and cameras to improve safety, collecting evidence of vermin and mold to force management to address the widespread unsanitary conditions in some buildings, and organizing other tenants to work together to improve their living conditions. Then they were forced out. I know of several who were unable to find affordable alternatives in the same communities. They thus lost their homes, their neighborhoods, and the support networks they had developed. This type of dislocation is devastating to the children who had to leave their schools; it is also detrimental to the community in general.

SB0644 would allow counties to enact “just cause” laws to prevent this type of retaliatory eviction, and provide greater security for tenants.

Everyone deserves to have a safe and stable home; it is a cornerstone of a healthy and flourishing community. But there can be no stability without protection from arbitrary or vindictive evictions by non-renewal of leases.

I respectfully urge the committee to **return a favorable report on SB0644.**