

My name is Shannon Leadbetter, I live in Anne Arundel County and I am here as the spouse of a retired Marine in support of HB1316. During my husband's 20 year career, we moved on average every 3 years. Moving that often is hard – the mental, emotional, physical, financial, and logistical challenges are a burden. As soon as a military family receives orders an entire process begins. The spouse updates their resume and undertakes a new job search, the search for childcare in the new location begins, insurance must be updated and changed, utility services all transferred, car insurance updated, the packing of household goods coordinated. The dates of your unit checkout have to line up with your move out, which needs to line up with your new move in, which needs to line up with your unit check in. Your travel (often cross country) must be planned. Children's school documentation – report cards, testing results and possibly teacher recommendations must be collected from the old school, and proof of residency must be collected for the new school. And goodbyes must be said. You must find ways to cope with the loss of friendships, support networks, lifestyles, communities, and spouse careers. Now imagine doing all of this every 3 years. It is a hard lifestyle to live. I can not calculate the additional stress placed on a military family, who endures all of this, and then can not move back into THEIR home because a tenant is holding over. However, I can calculate the financial impacts. Regardless of circumstances, the military member is only reimbursed for 10 days of temporary housing. The impact on military children is also tangible. In Anne Arundel County, to register for public school you need to provide a recent utility or cable bill along with your mortgage statement to prove residency. If the military member cannot move into their home in time due to tenant holder, the military child's education is adversely affected. HB 1316 is a very reasonable update to the eviction code that will protect military members from bearing an unreasonable burden during what is already a heavy lift. I respectfully ask for your favorable vote.