

Dear Members of the **Environment and Transportation Committee**:

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore. We are also working in collaboration with CASA. I am a resident of **District 45**. I am **testifying in support of the Tenant Possessions Recovery Act, HB0767**.

HB0767 would benefit Marylanders in two important ways: First, it **requires a landlord to give two weeks' notice of the scheduled eviction date**, allowing tenants to appropriately prepare. Second, it **requires a landlord to safeguard the personal possessions left on the property for 10 days**, giving evicted tenants a chance to reclaim them. Neither of these measures stops the landlord from reclaiming their property after a court has issued a lawful warrant of restitution. They simply prevent the eviction process itself from being unnecessarily traumatic and punitive, and bring Maryland into line with the majority of other states.

This issue also goes toward addressing long-standing racial inequities. As of October 2024, the National Equity Atlas estimates that 105,000 households are behind on their rent in Maryland, households that include 129,000 children. Of those, they estimate 89% are people of color. As described evocatively in Matthew Desmond's "Evicted" (2016), eviction has been documented to hit Black women tenants hardest because of intersecting prejudices against women with eviction records and housing discrimination against Black people. This compounds with the \$0.60 to the dollar wage gap for Black women to make each item thrown on the street during eviction even harder to replace, deepening an already critical financial hardship. Marylanders suffering the consequences of historically racist policies ought to be spared further harm.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of the Tenant Possessions Recovery Act, HB0767**.

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,
Brytani Fraser
Baltimore, MD 21214
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore



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