

TESTIMONY FOR SB0937

Landlords and Tenant - Residential Leases – Prospective Tenant Criminal History

Records Check (Maryland Fair Chance in Housing Act)

Position: FAVORABLE

I am a resident of District 41 and the President of Be the Change, a social justice organization.

Maryland has had, and still has, too many people in prison for minor offenses. Those people walk away after serving their sentence and find that they cannot rebuild their lives due to an overabundance of discrimination in getting jobs and housing.

This bill, if enacted, would help make it easier for those former offenders to get housing and begin a life outside the criminal justice system. When we make it hard for people to rejoin society, we are increasing the chances of a return to prison, and when we make it difficult for families to live together, we are exposing children to instability.

Secure housing is a step to a stable life in the community.

We support this bill and recommend a FAVORABLE report in committee.

Betsy Krieger

411 Hawthorn Rd

Baltimore, 21218

Be the Change Bmore