

Good afternoon, Chair and members of the Economic Matters Committee.

I have been a resident of Long Branch for 20 years. I belong to the Long Branch Housing Action Team (LBHAT). I am also a member of the CAI group and a CHEER Community Ambassador.

Working directly with the community gives me the opportunity to observe and listen to their complaints and concerns about the increase in evictions without justification for reporting and complaining to the apartment owners' office about issues such as mold, humidity, rodents, unusable appliances, poor apartment maintenance, rent increases, lack of parking, and noise. These factors contribute to chronic illnesses such as asthma, anxiety, depression, stress, high blood pressure, etc.

Statistics and graphs of absences due to asthma and other chronic illnesses caused by these factors found in apartments in our area are on the rise; therefore, complaining or organizing among tenants leads to unfair eviction or retaliation from landlords against us, the tenants.

I am making this respectful request regarding this Law so that all tenants in my community can have a decent, safe, and welcoming home for our families.

Thank you for taking the time to read and study my petition for this just cause. I hope for a prompt response, as my community needs clear and transparent answers.

THANK YOU.