



TESTIMONY
Maryland General Assembly
Environmental and Transportation Committee
In Favor of HB674—Pause Evictions

Matt Losak 301-588-3987
Executive Director, Montgomery County Renters Alliance, Inc.
Feb. 22, 2022

Good afternoon, Chairman Barve and Vice Chair Stein, Committee Members. The Montgomery County Renters Alliance is an alliance of more than 30 labor, community, religious, political and civic action organizations and thousands of renters. We are Maryland's first and only regional nonprofit dedicated exclusively to renter outreach, education, organizing and advocacy.

The Renters Alliance is in favor of **HB 0674** and we thank **Delegate Vaughn Stewart and the co-sponsors for this common-sense fix to a system intended to effectively deliver government resources to prevent evictions as a result of the pandemic's impact.**

Over the past two years, we have seen and worked with scores of renters facing eviction who qualify for rent relief but face court action to evict before relief can arrive.

This bill reconciles two disparate processes to ensure the same result: that renters remain stable while awaiting relief in good faith, and that landlords will ultimately be made whole without increasing costly apartment vacancies while unnecessarily damaging families and our communities.

We strongly urge a favorable report to this common sense fix.

Thank you

###