

Hello my name is Nicole. I am a person who has been diagnosed with disabilities. I am on the RAC with Homeforward. RAC stands for Residential Alliance.

I am an expert at navigating the housing system because I live in affordable housing and have had section 8 for 20+ years. I got section 8 when my son was three years old. I had left a domestic violence situation with my ex-husband and was living with my parents after living in multiple shelters when I got my voucher. It was very challenging to live with my parents. I had a disability and PTSD, I had to get on disability because of my challenges and not being able to maintain work. If I had not had housing I would have been on the street with a child. Having a disability made it challenging to navigate the paperwork and had I have been a part of a program like the People's Housing Assistance Fund SB603 I would have had quicker access to housing and may not have had to live in domestic violence shelters. When I was pregnant I had to choose between shelters, the street or violence.

I am writing to ask that you support SB603 because it is a resource to provide low-income people who need help to stay housed, stay housed. It is vital people have places to call home and the opportunity to help others. Without stable housing I probably would not have lived as long as I have lived.

As I am watching the snow, I think how grateful I am to have a home. Anyone at anytime can join the disability group and lose their home. We can forget how fortunate we are and how quickly things can be lost with a bill like this it helps protect families. It can help our children and with our children being our future, having a home to come to creates stability. When we have safe homes we are able to be more productive members of society so let's all work together so people can have a safe roof over their heads. Will you support our families, people with disabilities, and others who are struggling by supporting SB603?

Thank you for your time in listening to me in this matter.