

Submitter: Neamhain Virtue

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2305

I am a good tenant. I pay my rent, I keep the unit clean and in good condition, and I've lived in the same unit for over four years. And also I have had to pay rent late on at least three occasions in my current apartment. All three of those occasions were not my fault; as a person living in poverty, if an employer messes up my paycheck, if the IRS won't release my tax return, if any money is withheld or delayed, then my rent is late too. I don't have extra money that I spend on luxuries, because I don't have extra money. I'm not wasting money on frivolous things, I'm not refusing to pay rent, and I'm not asking for anything for free. I just don't think it's fair that when someone else is withholding my money from me, I should get doubly punished by getting evicted too. And if I do get evicted because I am low income it would be really hard for me to get approved for another rental. Not to mention, I would have to find money for a deposit, moving truck, and other costs of moving. I'm already low income, where am I supposed to get that from? In short, during a severe housing crisis, it would be unconscionable to advance legislation that would absolutely increase homelessness for some of our most vulnerable neighbors. Landlords already have the legal right to evict tenants who are dangerous, destroying property, engaging in criminal enterprise, etc; this legislation is unnecessary, and it is harmful to incredibly vulnerable families and individuals.