

Submitter: Edith Gillis

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2967

This last summer when our federal, state, county, and city taxes were given to my landlord to prevent houselessness and to properly house the low-income and disabled, Home Forward instead forced unwanted relocation of what I was told was thousands of tenants through no fault of our own, so that Home Forward could sell the properties or demolish them to rebuild to charge higher rents to richer people. So I and about 70 other households at my complex were forced to relocate and I heard so many heart-breaking examples of how landlords screwed them, including charging application fees when the landlords knew they did not have properties that would meet the financial or medial needs of the applicants. I paid fees to Zumper, Zillow, etc., and then again to the property management companies and yet when I told them that I needed wheelchair accessible one-story houses separate from and free from toxins such as mold, chlorine, methane and carbon monoxide, Tide detergent, radon, lead, asbestos, fragrances, tobacco and pot smoke, insecticides, rodenticides, herbicides, artificial fertilizers, diesel fumes, etc. they knew they did not have any such properties or units and they insisted on taking my money first. None of them refunded my money. None of them did an actual check of my financial or legal or housing references and records. Each application fee meant less money with which to pay rent or a lawyer, or storage unit and campground fee, etc.