

Greetings Councilmembers,

I am a renter in Montgomery County writing to request your support for Expedited Bill 18-20, Landlord-Tenant Relations – Rent Stabilization During Emergencies.

Covid-19 has had a tremendous impact on renters in Montgomery County. Residents have lost hours, wages, and their jobs. Other workers are on the front lines in hospitals, grocery stores, and in essential community services.

An increase in rent during an emergency only adds to the mental and physical stress renters are experiencing right now.

I'm calling on you, as a short-term solution, to alleviate some of the stress, fear, and anxiety many renters are feeling by prohibiting rent increases during, and for a period after, a state of emergency. As a long-term solution, we need universal housing for all.

Sincerely,  
Jason Sarkozi-Forfinski