

Testimony Tigist Teklegioris, Montgomery County Resident
In favor of Bill 30-21

Good afternoon members of the county council,
My name is Tigist Teklegioris, I am a Montgomery County resident, and I am here in favor of Bill-30-21, in support of rent stabilization and cancelation of late fees during this time of crisis. I have lived in the county for many years with my four children, two of them are now in college. During the pandemic, there were times I wasn't feeling well; I had fevers, cough, bitter taste, and I couldn't sleep. I was in bad shape, my symptoms continued for months, and I had to take time off from work. Because I wasn't able to work due to my health, my employment was terminated. Now I am struggling to pay the rent, and I haven't been able to pay the rent since April.

The housing situation has been very hard. I have been struggling paying bills, and someone shared with me how to apply for rental assistance. I applied for rental assistance more than four months ago, and I am still on the waiting list. I have a one-year lease that is about to expire this month, on September 23rd, and I am trying to see if I can extend my lease month-to-month.

It is important not to increase the rent or charge late fees because this is an international crisis. So many people have died because of Covid-19, not just here but everywhere. If I were working, I would be paying the rent, but businesses are collapsing at the international level. Thank you for your time, and I ask for your support on Bill 30-21 to support Montgomery County Residents during this crisis. Thank you!