

Submitter: Amaris Bouchard

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee on Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3503

I support this measure. I believe rent control aligns with the interests of the majority of Americans, who struggle to pay bills and save money for their futures. Allowing rent costs to rise has a myriad of effects on the city: first it will increase homelessness. If causing more individuals to experience homelessness is not your concern, then consider how the commerce centers of our city (such as downtown) will not look ‘desirable’ to consumers as homelessness continues to devastate people’s lives. Secondly, allowing rent prices to rise while the Fed does not control inflation puts most of us in an unstable position to save money. As a result, you may have an entire generation of Americans who cannot obtain housing security because they could not save money to purchase their own homes. I work a professional job and have three roommates. Each month I decide if I will save money for retirement or save for a house— but if housing costs rise, my attempts to plan for my future are squandered. Third, you may consider how letting rent prices run rampant will affect the economic productivity of workers in your city. Many more workers will need to take time off to find more affordable housing, and they may perform poorly at work due to the stress of their housing situations. We feed you, teach your children, and fill up your gas tank, and by not controlling rent you will make it impossible to rise up the ladder or work for our city.