

March 4, 2021

Subject: Yes on SB 282-1

Chair Jama, Co-Chair Linthicum, members of the Committee,

I work in healthcare and, despite a pandemic ensuring we need health care workers more than ever, the profession is no guarantee you'll be able to pay the rent. Back in May my employer cut the pay of nearly 6,000 causing many to fall behind on rent. These impacts are still being felt today.

I work the graveyard shift in psychiatric emergency services doing behavioral health assistance. I'm doing everything I can to keep up with the rent because my landlord has said things that make it clear he wants to raise the rent and I think if he could evict me, he would. There are so many people working in health care who are in the same situation and it just isn't right. Even those of us who are working during the pandemic won't be able to be caught up by July. We need more time to pay back rent and to access federal rent assistance.

The protections passed already have given much needed assistance to help people like me get back on our feet. As healthcare workers like myself know, the impacts of COVID-19 are far from over. We just need the security of knowing that if we've fallen behind on rent during COVID, we won't lose our homes come July. Please vote yes on this SB 282-1 and help people like us who are working so hard during this difficult time.

Kenneth Wilson
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