



**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**  
*of Montgomery County, MD, Inc.*

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**TESTIMONY: BILL 19-15, LANDLORD-TENANT RELATIONS - LICENSING OF RENTAL HOUSING – LANDLORD-TENANT OBLIGATIONS**

June, 17, 2015

Chair, Nancy Floreen,  
Planning, Housing and Economic Development Committee  
100 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Chair Floreen, Committee Member Riemer and Council President Leventhal:

The League of Women Voters of Montgomery County, MD (LWVMC) has long supported Montgomery County policies and programs to increase the supply of affordable housing, to prevent discrimination in housing and public accommodations and to provide shelter and services to all individuals with special needs due to mental illness, homelessness, disability and age. We applaud the County Councils' efforts to address the needs of renters, now 36% of county residents.

LWVMC supports continuation of the office of Landlord-Tenant Affairs with quasi - judicial powers. The League also supports a model lease, defined as a mutual contract, which includes a warranty of habitability and protection against retaliatory eviction. Stability, affordability and mutual landlord/tenant respect will be fostered by this legislation. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Linna Barnes, President