

Roberta DiMezza

From: Vivian Sutherland <vivianoliviasutherland@gmail.com>
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To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Support House Bill 7049

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Dear Chairman Craven and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I'm writing to you to urge you to pass House Bill 7049 the Rent Stabilization Act out of committee.

Since March 15th 2020 my rent has been cumulatively increased by my landlord 27%. At first it did not seem so bad, \$50 here, \$100 there but the number keeps getting higher each time.

When I first started renting here in Federal Hill 8 years ago the rent was affordable and I could handle paying it easily with my minimum wage barista job paying me on average \$15 an hour. Since then I became a waitress at a popular West Side brunch spot and make double that at \$30 an hour in tips but still can't afford these increases!

I'm worried that my wife and I will have to make hard choices if the rent increases any further because it will officially put us into the rent burdened category of paying more than 30% of our incomes on rent. If you include the insane increases in utility costs we already are rent burdened.

I know from reading the news my situation is not unique and many more tenants are severely rent burdened, often paying more than 50% of their incomes towards rent. Something has to be done to stabilize and regulate these sky high costs and hold landlords accountable for rent gouging.

It leads to displacing families from their vibrant neighborhoods, pushing workers further out from their jobs, and in many cases leads to eviction into homelessness which we should categorically seek to end.

Please support this bill and stand on the right side of history before it is too late and our communities no longer look like the communities they are today.

Thank you for your time,
-Vivian Sutherland