

2/17/2021

Dear Chair Hausman and Members of the Housing Finance & Policy Committee,

In 2017 I considered myself extremely lucky to move into supportive housing with my daughter. After an accident in 2013 left me unable to work, I struggled with stable housing and was in my fourth shelter. Unfortunately, in 2019 I found myself once again without housing. In the months leading up to the eviction, I was often harrassed by the housing director, and the frequent invasion of privacy by the maintenance person's entrance into my apartment. When it was admitted that I was being monitored when coming and going, I felt violated. Looking back, I realize that these had been deliberate tactics meant to force me out of my home. At the time, I was finally focusing on recovering from my accident. But the time and energy it took to fight the sudden eviction became my only focus. The Court system was confusing, difficult to navigate on my own, and offered little assistance for or information for tenants. Had there been more information in more accessible formats regarding what rights I actually had, or had been offered advice or assistance by someone familiar with the eviction process, a resolution could have been achieved between myself and the supportive housing director. It has been two years since I lost my housing, and I still do not have sustainable, affordable housing for my daughter and I. I haven't made any progress with my recovery. I still haven't received my security deposit(as agreed upon). I'm still traumatized by the entire process. What good comes from evicting those who need stable housing the most?? What benefit comes from a costly eviction process? Considering where we are right now, with such disparities in housing, would it not be best for our community as a whole to work together? This cannot be the only way. Thank you for taking the time to let me tell my story.

Amanda Leathers

Minneapolis, MN