

Communication from Public

Name: Dillon Foster

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Council File No: 18-0610-S3

Comments for Public Posting: Hi, my name is Dillon Foster, I am a tenant and I live in District 5. I want to thank Councilmembers Raman and Blumenfield for introducing the motion to establish Right to Counsel. As a renter, I want to strongly urge you to support a Right to Counsel ordinance. Eviction court will never be equitable as long as landlords are almost always represented by an attorney but fewer than 10% of tenants have legal representation. A Right to Counsel would create a more level playing field for tenants and landlords in court. It also saves taxpayers money, because it will reduce and prevent illegal and unjust evictions and homelessness. Right to counsel gives renters like me who likely will face eviction in the future (for me due to loss of income and rent debt) and renters facing eviction a fair fight to stay housed. Additionally, I would like to urge the council to eliminate rent debt. Renters of many backgrounds are struggling. Economic times are tough right now and eliminating rent debt now is the only way that you will effectively prevent a surge in homelessness this year and early next year.