

HB 4062 and HB 4063

Dear Clerk Melissa Sweet of the Judiciary Committee,

Today is a precious anniversary of living a full 2 years in my home with an HCV making that possible. I am currently doing my best to heal from my domestic violence and sexual assault past, which can be disruptive enough to make it necessary for not to work but only collect alimony and food stamps at this time.

I was at the Senate hearing providing my testimony about Source of Income and housing on Tuesday, May 16, 2023. My name is Terri and I shared how obtaining housing a Housing Choice Voucher and only having Child Support and now alimony as my personal income. I also shared that I am a survivor of homelessness, domestic violence and sexual assault while also seeking housing with any landlord that would accept my source of income and allow my children and I to move into a home. I would like to also share that most of the 37 addresses my children and I have had, only 1 (one) was with a Project Based Voucher address with just receiving child support. It was in the Project Based Voucher that I could actually afford to pay the rent, have enough food each month, pay my utilities, and enroll my children into afterschool programs. Before, I would trade off one or two bills at a lower payment to pay rent each month. I even skipped meals weekly in order to ensure that my children had a full meal. I was struggling every month money wise for paying a full rental amount every single month! That was my fourteen and a half year struggle with homelessness, which allowed me 18 years of stability in housing and later being gainfully employed in Adrian Public Schools and then Community Mental Health.

I feel that it is important to know that I am a survivor of domestic violence! It was hard enough to pay bills, but adding the stress of a rocky relationship with their father, added an element of danger daily! I am still struggling with nerve damage in my spine and legs from the abuse. My children and I did escape the relationship and even had a "false sense" of security while my former partner was in prison. We had to walk to the grocery store slowly due to my need to use a walker, later a cane and foot brace, all because of the domestic violence. That same physical struggle came with trying to recover from the mental abuse that came from wanting my former partner to pay child support. Everyday was a struggle, but being stably housed with the Project Based Voucher ensured that we could take that five years of affordable housing allowed us to recover and succeed!

I know that during the testimony I provided on May 16th the Housing and Health Senate Committee Senators were able to see me walk on two legs to the microphone. It was the stability of housing that provided me the time to focus on my physical and mental health recovery. It also allowed my children time to feel security of having their own beds and their own bedding choices. It may seem trivial to care about their own personally favorite bedding and bed, but it meant more than even I realized.

Now that my children are adults, I again have gained stable housing with a Housing Choice Voucher. It took me six months and sixteen days of daily calling, emailing, submitting multiple proofs of all identifying and financial documents, waiting for approvals or denials, paying for applications fee to places I knew would not approve my moving in to their property only to prove that I was actively trying to find housing, plus add to that going through a divorce because my now ex-husband couldn't cognitively know who I was to him, searching endlessly for a landlord in my county that would accept my

“hopeful” Housing Choice Voucher with my Emotional Support Pet. Since gaining this stability in housing, I have been once again able to focus on healing both mentally and physically, and regained my homeless advocacy efforts.

Please feel free to contact me about my housing, homeless experiences, domestic violence experiences, or my advocacy. Thank you again for providing me an opportunity to share my struggles and successes.

Sincerely,

Terri

Taressa B Snyder