

Testimony in Support for the campaign of Inclusionary Zoning
Proposal case, case number: 04-03

Name Denisse Rodriguez
Address 3105 Mount Pleasant Street, NW
Organization YARG (Youth Action Research Group)

When it comes to Inclusionary Zoning, I feel that this is a major step that needs to be done. My family was constantly being moved from place to place because of having to worry about next month's rising rent. It's bad enough that my mother had to struggle to raise four children by herself with no one to even give her a dime for the rent. So, then I ask myself what so nice about living in D C , a place where you grew up living in, when you won't even be able to afford it in the long run? Based on my experience of being evicted, I felt like I didn't have a home I felt lost and confused. Because of the fact that I didn't have a stable place to live, I didn't feel stable mentally. I wanted a place where I felt comfortable and I couldn't find it and I felt frustrated and it built up inside. I couldn't concentrate in school and I also felt powerless because I couldn't do anything about it. As a DC resident, I have suffered from moving place to place because of gentrification. When it comes to the issue around gentrification, it makes our capital look disgusting and ignorant. The injustice of our DC residents having to struggle for finding an affordable place to live is unfair. Inclusionary Zoning can provide affordable housing for those who need it. But, this does not mean that the developers will build these homes out in the middle of nowhere. This means that the agency will allow the developers to construct the same number of units within the same Ward or within two miles. This creates a more of a diverse community, rather than having ethnicities segregated. The thought of me not being able to afford a house by the age of 30 scares me. This is why I think that being able to keep affordable housing for the next fifty years is extremely important for our future residents, as well as our families. I believe that this proposal should be passed because we have to look at the big picture of what the future would bring, and how DC would look like as a whole if we didn't pass it.

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