

April 15, 2019

The Honorable Rob Bonta
California State Assembly
Sacramento, California

RE: AB 1110 (Friedman) - Support

EAST BAY FOR EVERYONE

Dear Assemblymember Bonta:

On behalf of East Bay for Everyone we are writing to express support for AB 1110, a bill increasing the required notice period for rent hikes.

East Bay For Everyone is a regional network of renters, homeowners, landlords, and housing advocates throughout the East Bay who organize for housing. We believe that housing is infrastructure rather than an investment, and that immediate action needs to be taken to protect Californians from the housing insecurity caused by our severe housing shortage.

A majority of California renters do not live in jurisdictions with local rent control laws, and state law currently allows landlords to implement unlimited rent increases with very short notice to tenants. Increasingly, and predictably, this is causing renters to lose their homes and is driving our state's unprecedented homelessness. Around the state, some renters report receiving rent increases doubling their rent in a single month, leaving no feasible way for them to afford to remain in their homes.

While we also support statewide rent gouging protections in the form of AB 1482 (Chiu), renters vitally need time to financially prepare for high rent increases they may receive, or arrange alternative housing. AB 1110 would enhance this ability by increasing existing notice requirements, so that rent increases of 10-15% come with 90 days' notice instead of 60 days, and 120 days for rent increases of over 15%. This is a common-sense protection that could prevent many evictions and episodes of homelessness.

This legislation is a critical part of the actions the Legislature can take this year to promote justice for renters, and we hope you will support it.

Sincerely,

The 1,000 members and supporters of East Bay for Everyone