

# Public Hearing on Bill 184

Submitted by Veronica Gonzalez, Hamilton ACORN

June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## Submission to Public Hearing on Bill 184 (Landlord & Tenant)

I am a member of Hamilton ACORN and Chair of Hamilton's Mountain chapter. Acorn Canada is a tenant union and community group of low- and moderate-income people across Canada.

I'm making this submission to the Committee on Bill 184 to represent low income families and tenants in Hamilton. I am extremely concerned about Bill 184 and its implications for those living in rental housing, especially during a global pandemic that is affecting many Canadians financially.

With this Bill landlords will be able to increase rent to an unreasonable amount above the yearly guideline. This will hit low income families and seniors the most. A tenant will have to file an application to fight the increased rent, within one year.

On top of that, the Bill gives even less opportunity to tenants to defend themselves in an eviction hearing. Tenants will be required to provide advance notice if they want to raise their own issues in an eviction hearing, such as poor maintenance. This is extremely challenging for tenants, especially those who belong to the most marginalized communities.

Bill 184 takes away a tenants' opportunity to get crucial financial and legal advice from the LTB Mediator, as it allows for legally enforced repayment agreements to be made outside of the LTB hearing process.

Low income families are getting more and more oppressed. Working people are on a minimum wage which isn't sufficient, disabled people and seniors are on a fixed income, this is why people cannot afford rent increases. Don't you want people to stay healthy and live in healthy homes? Is Ontario prepared for a homelessness crisis?

ACORN members in Ontario have contacted the corresponding offices numerous times to discuss these issues. A global pandemic is not the right time to put forth such a Bill. Bill184 neglects and dismisses our urgent concerns for low income families and the working class.

Veronica Gonzalez, June 26, 2020