

Chair Caruthers, Ranking Member Liston, members of the finance committee on my name is Fred Brooks, I am from Cleveland, OH and I am here with NOBLE.

The reason I am here today is to talk about the need for an increased supply of rental homes for low-income Ohioans.

In 2012 I was evicted from my parent's house in a 'sheriff sale' and was treated very poorly in the process.

Because of this eviction I ended up at a homeless shelter in Cleveland for 2 days. This had been pre-arranged once I found out I was losing the house.

Once I left the shelter, I moved into temporary housing on the westside of Cleveland for 2 months. The arrangement was time limited, and it was severely impacting my mental health not knowing what my next move was going to be.

After my stay in the temporary housing a girlfriend of mine let me move into a rental unit while I got back on my feet. Eventually I was approved for housing through HUD which is where I live now.

My housing instability story was many years ago, but I know housing instability has only gotten worse since.

There is a shortage of affordable housing in Cleveland and in Ohio. I ask that the state do something about this to help others who find themselves homeless like me. Or to prevent homelessness all together. I ask that you invest in affordable housing. You can do that by raising the spending authority for the housing trust fund. Thank you.