

Chair Caruthers, Ranking Member Liston, members of the committee my name is Dontez Taylor, I am from Cleveland, OH and I am here with NOBLE.

The reason I am here today is to talk about the need for more affordable rental housing options as well as the need to invest in public transportation.

About 10-15 years ago I applied for a Section 8 voucher, I still have not received the voucher and as a senior with a fixed income and a disability it can be a struggle to pay rent. One day I would like to save up to buy a house but if I keep having to pay high rent that might never happen. Also, I think all people should have access to affordable housing. An idea that I have is for there to be a cap on the amount that people can charge for rent. Please invest money into affordable housing.

I live in Cleveland, and I take RTA. I use paratransit services and regular services and have experienced many issues with both.

With paratransit I would like to see improvements in senior dispatch and scheduling.

With the regular bus I would like to see more frequent routes especially on weekends. Buses should come every 15-20 minutes especially on popular routes. Some buses come more than an hour apart. If you miss the bus in the cold you are in trouble, it is a shame. Also, RTA keeps cutting bus lines that are important to me, this makes going to the doctor, volunteering, visiting my girlfriend and going to work harder.

I would like the state to invest more money into public transportation so that myself and the people of Cleveland can have better public transportation. Thank you for your time.