Monday, November 10, 2025 10 AM Statehouse, 125 W State St. Trenton-Committee Room 1

The 3 Bills (In Plain English) that will help prevent homelessness, improve housing conditions, and protect people when they look for housing in the future.

S4832 – **Local Homelessness Plans + Funding**

- This bill lets your town/city government create a plan and set aside money that is ONLY for helping people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless
- **Why it matters:** It's like each town having its own "piggy bank" just for helping people without homes or about to lose their homes. Then the town/city uses that money & a plan to make sure real help happens (housing, support services) This bill helps fix that!

S279 – Protecting Your Rental Record

- This bill keeps some landlord-tenant court cases private, especially if you didn't lose your home.
- It also stops landlords from using old court records against you when you apply for a new rental.
- **Why it matters**: Just because you had trouble with a landlord before and went to court, doesn't mean you shouldn't be able to find a place to live now!

S4347 – Safe and Livable Rentals (aka the "SLUMLORD Act")

- This bill makes sure rental homes are safe and in good shape. This bill ensures rentals are real homes.
- It gives DCA (the state) stronger oversight, more power to deal with slumlords and unsafe apartments. And creates a program to enforce habitability (how livable a place is) and provides $5 million for it.
- **Why it matters**: Everyone deserves a safe, decent place to live. A bad apartment shouldn't force people back into homelessness. It helps renters, especially those with limited choices who may end up in bad housing. It also helps keep people from falling back into homelessness because their place was unsafe or got condemned.
- It means if you rent a home - no broken heating, holes in the floor, no mold, etc... If the landlord doesn't fix things, the state will help enforce the rules.

Logistics for the Day

- Arrive by 8:45 - 9:00 AM at the NJ State House in Trenton to get through security.
- Go to **Committee Room 1**, where these bills will be heard. (the hearing starts at 10:00 a.m.) for the NJ Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee.
- **At the sign-in table, fill out a support slip for each bill you agree with (1 slip = 1 bill). *Fill out as many slips as you'd like**
    - You'll check the box whether you want to testify (speak) or just register support. If you're speaking, the chair will call you when the time comes.
- If you speak, you'll have up to 3 minutes. Write it down on paper if that helps or as notes on your phone; you might talk about your lived experience: what you went through, how it felt, how these bills would help someone just like you. OR speak without notes & speak from the heart - Both are valid!
- Be yourself — your voice has power! You are the expert!!

Why You Should Come

- Because your story & your voice are powerful. People have the Power!
- When lawmakers hear from people who've been homeless, people who work on the frontlines, or those who are implementing programs & supports and they hear real stories, they're more likely to vote YES!
- Whether you speak or just show up, your presence makes a difference.

Let's come together, support New Jersey Homelessness Action Collaborative **(NJHAC)**, and show the state that we are united and serious about making change!!!