


From: [Caitlin](#) 
To: [-- City Council](#)
Subject: Tenant Protections for Families w/ Students
Date: Saturday, March 4, 2023 2:09:40 PM

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Hi everyone,

I would like to take a moment to urge you to **include protections against evictions during the school year for families with students.**

Working with Petaluma City Schools, we have seen SO much pain and trauma in our students' lives in the past few years. As if our students aren't going through enough, the idea of even one of them getting evicted without just cause is heartbreaking. Schools have been asked to be EVERYTHING for students and families - we provide food, mental health support, social-emotional support, tons of extracurriculars, and so much more. Schools are often THE resource center for families.

To uproot a student and their family from their network of resources is incredibly inhumane. I would prefer "just cause" eviction protections be instituted year-round for everyone, not just families with kids -- but to those of you who have asked how you and the City Council can help schools and students, this is one EASY EASY EASY way.

I recently started mentoring a new teenager, a CGHS freshman, through MentorMe. His parents are tenants here in Petaluma, living in District 3 (like me.) When I asked him how he would feel about being evicted in the middle of the school year, he couldn't imagine being taken away from his friends and his support system at school that he has just now been able to develop. His family gets food from the food bank at Miwok Elementary, where his little sister goes.

What are the chances that, if evicted, they would find housing again in the same neighborhood? Slim. His family would have to start all over finding resources and support while the kids adjust to new schools... if they even find a new home.

Many evicted families end up being homeless. Children experiencing homelessness are more likely to be chronically absent from school and struggle academically. Latinx, Black, Native American, and Pacific Islander students were disproportionately likely to experience homelessness. These same communities of color were already the most likely to be housing cost-burdened and at risk of experiencing housing instability. If Petaluma wants to talk about equity, it needs to protect tenants and help prevent families from becoming homeless.

Schools are often the one constant in a kid's life. Tenants deserve consistency and as much notice as possible when evictions (without cause) do happen. I am a landlord, and in choosing to be a landlord I accept some risks. If the only risk is being stuck with decent tenants who pay their rent a little longer, I don't think that is too much to ask of landlords. **Please do not be bullied by statewide associations--many smaller landlords have compassion for the families who live in our properties.** There are still SO many exceptions that allow landlords to evict tenants, landlords will not just be stuck with horrible, non-paying tenants.

As a landlord with tenants, as a youth mentor, as a District 3 resident, and as a person who volunteers an awful lot of her time trying to improve our public schools for kids, I ask you: **please protect tenants with students**, at least during the school year. If you have any questions, you can always ask me.

thank you for your consideration,

Caitlin Quinn

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