Standing up for the lives of Black mothers
The PJC’s Ashley Black testifies in support of bills to address racial disparities in maternal mortality

The birth of a child should be a celebration of new life for mothers and their families. Yet too often, hopeful expectation turns to mourning when our healthcare systems fail Black women, who die in childbirth at 3.7 times the rate of white women in Maryland. And the gap is growing in Maryland, with maternal mortality increasing for Black women, even as it decreases for white women.

Testifying before the Maryland Senate Finance Committee, PJC Health Rights attorney Ashley Black emphasized the need for state and county-level attention to addressing these preventable deaths. She spoke in support of two bills that would improve the collection, analysis, and reporting of data on racial disparities in maternal mortality. Read about these bills here.

The rent is the rent
Tenants and advocates testify in Annapolis

“I pay my rent every month. My landlord sent me water bills monthly, and I was able to keep up. But then last year in early July, my landlord suddenly sent me five months of water bills at the same time.”

In the House of Delegates Environment and Transportation Committee, Guan Small was testifying alongside Public Justice Center staff and allies in favor of HB 473, which would define rent as the fixed, periodic amount a tenant pays for their home. Why does a definition of rent matter in Mr. Small’s situation? Read how HB 473 would ensure fairness in the courts and stability for renting families.
“The job we do – there’s nothing minimum about it.”

Home care worker tells Delegates why Maryland should raise the minimum wage

PJC client Dennise Vaughn joined PJC attorney David Rodwin in February to testify in support of HB 166, which would increase the minimum wage to $15 an hour. She described to Maryland Delegates her life as a home care worker. Assisting elderly clients with their daily activities. Juggling 15-hour work days with caring for her own children. Pay so low that the long days are not enough to make ends meet. “I think that $15 an hour is not too much to ask to help us live a decent life,” she said. Watch a video of her powerful testimony here.

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Join our team of social justice advocates!

Paralegal
Employment Rights
Attorney
Director of Development

PJC's e-newsletter is an occasional public notice to join, share, celebrate, or commiserate with the Public Justice Center's efforts to “pursue systemic change to build a just society.” Please forward this information to others. To subscribe or unsubscribe to future e-newsletters, please send an email to info@publicjustice.org stating your preferences.