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I am writing in support of this bill based on my personal experience living in an apartment with significant mold and mildew. When I moved in, there was a clause in the lease stating that the apartment owners would not be liable if I became ill due to conditions in the apartment. When I raised concerns about the clause I was told it was something they included because of COVID-19.

However, after some time, I discovered extensive mold and mildew on the furniture and in the closet of my furnished apartment. Before realizing the extent of the issue, I was experiencing severe health problems, including wheezing, shortness of breath, and frequent fungal and bacterial infections. After months of doctor visits and antibiotics, I finally understood that my health issues were directly caused by the environment. I lived in the apartment for almost two years. Despite informing the apartment owners about the mold, which I later found out they were aware of, they merely advised me on cleaning it off, but had no intention of addressing the underlying issue or remediating.

Fortunately, I was eventually able to find alternative housing, and since moving out, I've had no further health problems. Had regular mold inspections and testing been required, I could have avoided extensive medical costs. I can only imagine how much worse it could have been if children or elderly individuals were living in that environment.

I strongly urge you to consider my experience when deciding on this bill. Requiring regular mold and mildew testing in homes and rental properties would protect residents and tenants and prevent unnecessary suffering and medical expenses.

Thank you for your time and consideration.