

After a loss of income due to covid, I was forced to delay paying rent starting in July. I attempted to pay out of pocket in April after losing income, thinking I'd be able to keep up or find new work, but found that things were worse than I expected. I was approved for unemployment but have still not received checks for all of my claims, I received part of my claim in December and have finally paid off my credit card debt just this month.

My landlord has continually attempted to retaliate during this time, beginning with calling the police to the unit for keeping luggage in a common area overnight. He said he was afraid for his life to the police but admitted, while I took video, that the only reason he called them was because of the luggage left out. He stomps around every morning, slamming cabinets and running the vacuum as early as 6:00am, disturbing my sleep. Because of recurring symptoms of anxiety and depression, this has affected my health and likely my performance at my new job. It was just yesterday that I received a letter of termination without cause from him, he had previously attempted to give me a 30 day notice of termination, which he admitted was unlawful. I have attempted to contact legal assistance and am preparing to use small claims court to seek restitution for a list of violations that is longer than what I've submitted so far.

The night before receiving the letter of termination, I walked into the common kitchen to find a thinly veiled message waiting, a drink jacket with the message "Beach better have my money" above an image of a shark using a metal detector which I took to be a clever but plain reference to the saying, "Bitch better have my money". This new attempt to terminate without cause is an additional act of retaliation from a landlord who has threatened to evict for no cause (separate from the attempt to terminate with no cause), threatened and attempted to restrict access to common areas, and attempted to demand open access to rented space including multiple times unlawfully entering my private bathroom without notice. I support SB 282 because it provides reasonable protection for tenants who have been severely impacted by the coronavirus pandemic who are now living through the impact of landlords attempting to retaliate because of financial hardships.