

Two years ago when looking for an apartment and on a time crunch, it became extremely necessary to find a place swiftly, and thankfully, AirBnB was an option. As finding a new place to live became a huge, rushed burden and an immediate necessity, the luxury of a short-term rental during apartment hunting was a Godsend. I found the current AirBnB I am at and figured it would be a two-week rental that could allow myself time for apartment hunting, and once I got there, it put me at tremendous ease as I was awarded more liberty and time in finding the right place to hang my hat and call home.

Two weeks turned to two months as I continued the apartment hunt, but the more I searched, the more abundantly clear it became that there was no place that was going to beat the place I was in. My hosts were the landlords of dreams- a family that I instantly bonded with where we developed a relationship that was familial, neighborly, and trusted. The place I was in went from being a lifesaver stay situation to an ideal actual apartment that I am still currently in to this day- and keep in mind; this is all during the pandemic, where the idea of going into a large building was terrifying and dangerous.

New York isn't just making a tremendous mistake with this new law- one that puts extreme inconvenience on people during the harshest of times, not to mention intends to crush small businesses, it is also an extremely dangerous law that puts lives at risk during a time in our country where housing is scarce, and in our particular state; living arrangements with trusted cleanliness and upholding CDC standards are fewer and further between. It's appalling and shocking that as we are not even fully in the clear of this pandemic nightmare, New York would limit housing and stay options in a way that truly puts more people at risk, and on the streets. I'm sure there were plenty of people like myself that during the pandemic quickly sought out better safer options of residency, and it's astoundingly irresponsible that New York- a state that prided itself on its response of COVID, and the amount of gravitas it took the outbreak with, to pass such a fool-hearty and dangerous law.

And again, to top it all off, this law is crushing small business, and denying state residents of the luxury of finding an incredible, safe, and trusted living arrangement in a short amount of time- which is precisely what AirBnB offers. The service is not just for travelers, and probably more often than not used by more local residents looking for a quick fix. Tons of New Yorkers need quick, affordable, short-term living accommodations for a variety of reasons that range from housing problems- perhaps one's house caught fire, or has plumbing problems- to even victims of domestic abuse who need to quickly get away to a place they can afford. This law is appalling, and a clear indicator that anyone that gets behind it does not care about the residents of New York, and I definitely hope it will not continue.

Thank you for your time, and I hope New York makes the right decision.