

May 2, 2022

Hon. JB Pritzker
Governor of Illinois
Office of the Governor
100 West Randolph Street, Suite 16-100
Chicago, IL 60601

Re: Request to Sign House Bill 2775 Into Law

Dear Governor Prizker:

The undersigned 78 organizations request that you sign House Bill 2775 into law during a public event to bring attention to the critical issue of source of income fair housing protections. This legislation will create a new provision in the Illinois Human Rights Act to bar housing providers from discriminating against a prospective applicant's source of income. Upon signing, the law will go into effect January 1, 2023.

Over half of Illinois households have been susceptible to source of income discrimination because they earn non-wage income, such as Social Security, retirement income, and public assistance. In addition, about 99,000 households who use Housing Choice Vouchers to pay their rent often experience source of income discrimination.

Source of income fair housing protections will have a major positive impact on ensuring a more just and equitable housing market across our state, and address systemic racial and economic segregation.

After the signing of HB 2775, Illinois will become the 20th state, plus the District of Columbia, with source of income protections. A few Illinois jurisdictions, including Chicago, Cook County, Naperville and Urbana also have local source of income fair housing protection ordinances.

The Illinois Coalition for Fair Housing came together to pass HB 2775. Key supporters include AARP, Access Living, Chicago Area Fair Housing Alliance, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Chicago Urban League, HOPE Fair Housing Center, Housing Action Illinois, Housing Choice Partners, Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Illinois Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC-IL), Latino Policy Forum, Northside Community Resources, SEIU Healthcare, Shriver Center on Poverty Law, Working Family Solidarity and Zillow. Learn more about our coalition and campaign at <https://www.housingchoicepartners.org/soi-campaign>.

We believe that no one should be denied housing when they have the means to make the rent. Too often, individuals on government assistance, single mothers receiving child support, people with disabilities, or seniors on fixed incomes are turned away based on where they receive their income.

Our chief sponsors, Representative LaShawn Ford and State Senator Ram Villivalam, worked with us to negotiate HB 2775 with the Illinois REALTORS®, who supported the bill in its final form. The Illinois Department of Human Rights was also an important partner in passing the bill, particularly to help negotiate language that brought the Illinois Bankers Association and their allies to a neutral position.

Sharon Norwood helped advocate for the legislation based on her own past struggles to rent a home using a Housing Choice Voucher. “Having statewide source of income protections will help people avoid what happened to me. I had to give up my voucher, because I could not find a landlord to rent to me in the community I wanted my family to live in,” Norwood said. “Once I gave up my voucher, I did find a landlord who rented to me, but I was paying a lot more rent than I could afford because of it.”

After the bill signing, we look forward to working with the governor’s office, the Illinois Department of Human Rights and others on public education efforts to make sure that property owners and people seeking housing are aware of the new rights and responsibilities associated with statewide source of income protections.

Please be in contact with Bob Palmer, Policy Director for Housing Action Illinois at bob@housingactionil.org or 312-939-6075, as well as Michael Chavarria, Executive Director for HOPE Fair Housing Center, michael.chavarria@hopefair.org or 708-288-5977, for more information and/or with your feedback.

Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

AARP Illinois
Access Living of Metropolitan Chicago
Action Ridge
AIDS Foundation Chicago & Center for
Housing and Health
Alice Cottingham & Associates, LLC
Alliance to End Homelessness in
Suburban Cook County

Arab American Family Services
Beyond Legal Aid
BodyWorksByCarla
BPI
CASA Blue Island
CEDA
Center for Disability & Elder Law

Chicago Alliance Against Sexual
Exploitation (CAASE)
Chicago Area Fair Housing Alliance
Chicago Coalition for the Homeless
Chicago Urban League
Children's Home & Aid
Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil
Rights Under Law
Collaborative for Health Equity Cook
County
Connections for the Homeless
Corporation for Supportive Housing
Cunningham Township
Disability Resource Center
Disability Rights Action Coalition for
Housing (DRACH)
DuPagePads
Embarras River Basin Agency, Inc.
Family Rescue
HOPE Fair Housing Center
Housing Action Illinois
Housing Choice Partners
Housing Forward
Housing Opportunities & Maintenance
for the Elderly (H.O.M.E.)
Illinois Chapter, American Academy of
Pediatrics
Illinois Council of Child and Adolescent
Psychiatry
Illinois Iowa Center for Independent
Living
Illinois National Organization for Women
IMPACT CIL
James B. Moran Center for Youth
Advocacy
Jewish Council on Urban Affairs
Lake County Coalition for the Homeless
Latino Policy Forum
Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing
Legal Action Chicago

Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan Family
Services
Manufactured Home Owners
Association of Illinois
Mental Health America of Illinois
Metropolitan Family Services
Metropolitan Planning Council
Metropolitan Tenants Organization
NAMI Illinois
NAMI South Suburbs of Chicago
National Coalition for Latinxs with
Disabilities
North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic
Northside Community Resources
Northwest Center
Oak Park Housing Authority
Progress Center for Independent living
Public Action to Deliver Shelter, Inc.
DBA Hesed House
RAMP Center for Independent Living
Refugee Action Network
RefugeeOne
Religious Action Center of Illinois
(RAC-IL)
Respond Now
SEIU Healthcare
Shelter Care Ministries
Shriver Center on Poverty Law
South Suburban Housing Center
South Suburban PADS
St. John's Episcopal Church, Chicago
Supportive Housing Providers
Association (SHPA)
The Housing Task Force
The Network: Advocating Against
Domestic Violence
Uptown People's Law Center
Vision Morton Grove
Voice of the People in Uptown, Inc.
Woodstock Institute
Working Family Solidarity