

FAIR HOUSING IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2022

Inclusive legislation to amend the Fair Housing Act to prohibit discrimination based on source of income, veteran status, or military status was introduced in June of this year by Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA). The bill, S.4485: the Fair Housing Improvement Act of 2022, would expand protections under the Fair Housing Act of 1968 to include banning discrimination based on source of income and veteran status. Although there are state and local governments that have passed source-of-income protection laws, federal law does not protect against this specified type of discrimination.

By adding source of income and veteran status to the Fair Housing Act's list of protected classes, the bill would prohibit housing providers from denying housing to individuals who use:

- HUD's Housing Choice Vouchers, a housing voucher under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 and any form of Federal, State, or local housing assistance provided to a person or family or provided to a housing owner on behalf of a person or family, including rental vouchers, rental assistance, rental subsidies from nongovernmental organizations, and homeownership subsidies
- Income received as a monthly benefit under title II of the Social Security Act, as a supplemental security income benefit under title XVI of the Social Security Act, or as a benefit under the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974, including any such benefit to which the individual is entitled for which payment is made to a representative payee
- Income received by court order, including spousal support and child support
- Any payment from a trust, guardian, conservator, cosigner, or relative; and
- Any other lawful source of income or funds, including savings accounts and investments

For too long, discrimination has prevented low-income people from living in neighborhoods of their choice, including communities with jobs that pay decent wages, good schools, healthcare, and transportation, simply because they rely on federal housing benefits to make ends meet.

With our nation in the middle of a housing crisis, no individual or family should face additional trials while searching for a safe, decent and affordable place to call home. But for many Americans who use housing vouchers and/or alternative forms of payment to serve as income,

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it's perfectly legal for a landlord or property owners to reject them based on this factor alone. The worst part is that in the midst of all the bias rejection, veterans and low-income families receive the brunt end of these practices. This legislation will end this discriminatory practice and ensure that all Americans are treated fairly and not denied affordable housing by landlords or property owners.

Cosponsors:

Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD], Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO], Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN], Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT], Sen. Cortez Masto, Catherine [D-NV], Sen. Padilla, Alex [D-CA], Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ], Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]

Call To Action:

It is important that we, the people, band together to demand our voices be heard by urging our respective members of Congress to sign onto this needed bill. By doing so, we can initiate the change that we want to see within our communities.

About National Coalition for the Homeless

The National Coalition for the Homeless is a national network of people who are currently experiencing or who have experienced homelessness, activists and advocates, community-based and faith-based service providers, and others committed to a single mission: To end and prevent homelessness while ensuring the immediate needs of those experiencing homelessness are met and their civil rights are respected and protected.

Contact NCH with questions: Donald Whitehead, Executive Director,
dwhitehead@nationalhomeless.org.

