



NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION of
REALTORS®

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March 12, 2019

The Honorable David N. Cicilline
U.S. House of Representatives.
2233 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Cicilline:

The National Association of REALTORS®, representing its 1.3 million members, supports H.R. 5, “The Equality Act,” particularly its inclusion of fair housing rights based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Fair housing is integral to our ability to buy, purchase, lease and occupy real estate in America, having protected our nation’s essential right to property for more than half a century. As NAR stated last year during the 50th Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act, “Fair Housing Makes U.S. Stronger.”

Fair housing laws improve opportunities for employment, education and healthy communities, and NAR is proud of our commitment to equal housing opportunities. In 2010 and 2014, NAR amended its Code of Ethics to protect equal housing opportunities for those facing discrimination for sexual orientation and gender identity and supported legislation in Congress to add those same protections to the Fair Housing Act.

Since these amendments were added to the Code of Ethics in 2010 and 2014, REALTORS® are ethically committed to providing equal professional service, not only based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status and national origin, but also based on sexual orientation and gender identity. These commitments extend to REALTORS® in all aspects of real estate, not limited to housing, and to their real estate related employment practices.

As NAR continues to work to ensure the American Dream is available and accessible to all Americans, we are pleased that Congress has taken steps to incorporate these protections into law, and we stand ready to work with Congress to support and promote the Equality Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'John Smaby'.

John Smaby
2019 President, National Association of REALTORS®



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