



NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION of  
REALTORS®

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May 5, 2019

The Honorable Tim Kaine  
United States Senate  
231 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Susan M. Collins  
United States Senate  
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Kaine and Collins:

The National Association of REALTORS®, representing its 1.3 million members, supports S. 1246, “The Fair and Equal Housing Act,” which prohibits housing discrimination 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 policies. In 2010 and 2014, NAR amended its Code of Ethics to include equal housing protections for those facing discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and we also 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® have been 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 Fair and Equal Housing Act.

Sincerely,

John Smaby  
2019 President, National Association of REALTORS®



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