



NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION of
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December 10, 2019

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
304 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
Chairwoman
House Committee on Appropriations
2365 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs Shelby and Lowey:

On behalf of the 1.4 million members of the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR), NAR is pleased to support the increases in funding for fair housing activities in the House Appropriations Subcommittee FY2020 spending bill. Specifically, NAR supports:

- \$75 million in Salaries and Expenses funding the FY2020 House bill provides for HUD’s Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO). Our nation needs strong federal enforcement of the fair housing laws. FHEO needs additional resources not only to respond to discrimination complaints from individuals, but to take more pro-active steps in investigating and eliminating discrimination in the housing market;
- \$46.4 million for the Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP), as provided in the FY2020 House bill, to support nonprofit fair housing groups whose fair housing enforcement activities, such as testing, hold the housing industry to the highest standards. In addition, FHIP education activities make sure consumers and housing professionals alike know their rights and obligations under the fair housing laws; and
- \$27 million for the Fair Housing Assistance Program (FHAP), which supports State and local agencies that enforce laws substantially equivalent to the Federal Fair Housing Act. We must ensure these agencies, which handle 80 percent of the housing discrimination complaints that consumers file with government agencies, have the resources needed to conduct prompt and thorough investigations.

When President Lyndon Johnson signed the Fair Housing Act into law a half-century ago, he said, “We have come some of the way, not near all of it. There is much yet to do.” The fair housing budget in House FY2020 bill helps us all better meet this challenge.

Sincerely,

Vince Malta
2020 President, National Association of REALTORS®



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