



NATIONAL
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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 is pleased to support funding increases for fair housing activities within the House Appropriations Subcommittee FY2020 spending bill. Specifically, NAR is encouraged the bill contains:

- \$75 million in Salaries and Expenses funding for HUD’s Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO). Our nation needs strong federal enforcement of fair housing laws, demanding additional resources for FHEO to both respond to discrimination complaints and to take more proactive steps to investigate and eliminate discrimination in the housing market;
- \$46.4 million for the Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP), which supports nonprofit fair housing groups whose enforcement activities 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 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 housing discrimination complaints filed 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 the House FY2020 bill helps us better meet this challenge, and NAR is pleased to support these critical provisions.

Sincerely,

Vince Malta
2020 President, National Association of REALTORS®



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