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March 8, 2018

The Honorable Dr. Benjamin Carson  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Secretary Carson:

The National Association of REALTORS® (NAR) has recently become aware that HUD may be planning to update and streamline its mission statement. Part of these reports have indicated that the language referencing housing discrimination and inclusive communities may be changed or eliminated. NAR would like to take this opportunity to affirm our belief that fair housing is a critical part of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) mission and to affirm our longstanding partnership with HUD to bring about this national priority.

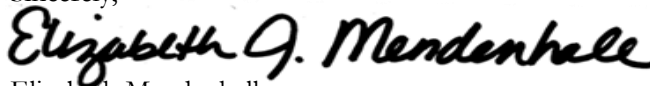
The Fair Housing Act charges HUD with the responsibility to enforce the Fair Housing Act and to affirmatively further fair housing. Both of these missions are of critical importance to REALTORS® and the customers and clients our members serve. As REALTORS® reflect on the 50th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act, we are reminded of the words of President Lyndon Johnson as he signed the bill into law –“It proclaims that fair housing for all --all human beings who live in this country-- is now a part of the American way of life.”

Strong enforcement of our nation's laws is absolutely necessary to bring about equal housing opportunities. The Association takes fair housing seriously and it is included in our Code of Ethics which every REALTOR® subscribes to. However, enforcement alone is not enough to address the many issues that lead to inequities in our communities. Those inequities make it difficult for REALTORS® in some communities to conduct their business and may lead to pressures to discriminate and open the doors to unethical businesses and predators.

NAR has enjoyed over 40 years of partnership with HUD in our shared Fair Housing mission. As we commemorate this 50th Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act, we would like to affirm that our partnership will continue to advocate for inclusive and sustainable communities without discrimination.

NAR appreciates your consideration of this matter. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me or NAR's Director of Diversity and Inclusion, Fred Underwood, at 202-383-1132 or FUnderwood@REALTORS.org.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Mendenhall  
2018 President, National Association of REALTORS®

cc: Pamela Hughes Patenaude, Deputy Secretary  
Anna Maria Farías, Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity

