



**NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION of
REALTORS®**

Ron Phipps
ABR, CRS, GRI, GREEN, e-PRO, SFR
2011 President

Dale A. Stinton
Chief Executive Officer

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS DIVISION

Jerry Giovaniello, Senior Vice President
Gary Weaver, Vice President
Joe Ventrone, Vice President
Jamie Gregory, Deputy Chief Lobbyist

500 New Jersey Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20001-2020
Ph. 202-383-1194 Fax 202-3837580
www.REALTOR.org

March 23, 2011

Regulations Division
Office of General Counsel
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street, SW, Room 10276
Washington, DC 20410

Re: Docket No. FR-5359-P-01 Equal Access to Housing in HUD Programs – Regardless of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity Proposed Rule

Dear Sir or Madame:

I am writing on behalf of the 1.1 million members of the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR) to provide written comments on the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) proposed rule that extends equal access to housing in HUD programs regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

The National Association of REALTORS® is America’s largest trade association, including NAR’s five commercial real estate institutes and its societies and councils. REALTORS® are involved in all aspects of the residential and commercial real estate industries and belong to one or more of some 1,400 local associations or boards, and 54 state and territory associations of REALTORS®.

The National Association of REALTORS® consistently and emphatically supports equal opportunity in housing and has partnered with the Department of Housing and Urban Development for over four decades in promoting fair housing to its members and the public. The National Association of REALTORS®, in late 2009, declared its support for equal opportunity in housing on the basis of sexual orientation and within one year, updated the REALTOR® Code of Ethics to include an obligation for all REALTORS® to provide equal professional service on the basis of sexual orientation. The National Association of REALTORS® has no policy concerning equal opportunity on the basis of gender identity.

The National Association of REALTORS® supports the proposed rule regarding discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and offers no comment regarding discrimination on the basis of gender identity. This rule will help bring a consistent policy throughout the United States in support of Equal Opportunity in Housing. Nearly half the country is already protected by state or local law against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Although state and local laws vary in many ways, the proposed rule regarding sexual orientation in HUD programs will help REALTORS® and other housing providers apply our new commitment in a manner consistent with existing fair housing practices.

Sincerely,

Ron Phipps, ABR, CRS, GRI, GREEN, e-PRO, SFR
2011 President, National Association of REALTORS®



REALTOR® is a registered collective membership mark which may be used only by real estate professionals who are members of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® and subscribe to its strict Code of Ethics.