



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-1000

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CONGRESSIONAL
AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

MAR 28 2018

Ms. Elizabeth Mendenhall
President
National Association of Realtors
500 New Jersey Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20001-2020

Dear Ms. Mendenhall:

On behalf of Secretary Benjamin S. Carson, Sr., thank you for your letter regarding the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) mission statement. Recent media reports claimed HUD changed its mission statement, a signal to some that the Department is somehow retreating from its legal and rightful role in protecting Americans from housing discrimination. These reports are quite simply false.

In a recent open letter to HUD staff, Secretary Carson addressed this issue head on and spoke passionately about the relevance of the Fair Housing Act in our national life: "HUD has been, is now, and will always be committed to ensuring inclusive housing, free from discrimination for all Americans."

As previous administrations have done, HUD is looking at its mission statement and considering modest changes to make it a clearer, more concise expression of its historic work on behalf of the American people. Any change to HUD's mission statement will capture the essence of our historic role in fighting housing discrimination and promoting fair and inclusive housing.

Next month, HUD will mark the 50th Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act. In signing that landmark bill into law, President Johnson said, "Fair Housing for all, all human beings who live in this country, is now a part of the American way of life." Everyone at HUD believes those words.

Again, thank you for your letter. HUD appreciates the long partnership with NAR and its members and looks forward to continuing to work together to create even greater housing and economic opportunity for the residents of this nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Len Wolfson", written over a horizontal line.

Len Wolfson
Assistant Secretary for Congressional
and Intergovernmental Relations