



June 18, 2024

The Honorable Tim Kaine
United States Senate
231 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Kaine:

On behalf of the more than 1.5 million members of the National Association of REALTORS®, thank you for reintroducing “The Fair and Equal Housing Act of 2024,” which will provide clear and consistent non-discrimination protections for LGBTQ+ people in housing by adding “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” as protected characteristics under the Fair Housing Act.

As stewards of the right to own, use, and transfer private property, our livelihood and business as REALTORS® depend upon an open housing market that is free from discrimination. Discrimination in housing transactions limits the property rights of sellers and buyers and the ability of REALTORS® to conduct business. More fundamentally, housing discrimination is repugnant to our shared sense of fairness and decency. For over half a century, the Fair Housing Act has helped level the playing field by protecting housing providers and consumers from the adverse impacts of discrimination based on race, color, religion, and national origin, and later, sex, familial status, and disability.

In 2009 and in 2013, REALTORS® adopted policy affirming that the right to buy or rent housing of choice should not be abridged due to a homeseeker’s sexual orientation or gender identity. Our commitment to equal housing opportunity is enshrined in NAR’s Code of Ethics, which commits REALTORS® to provide equal professional service to all without regard to sexual orientation or gender identity, in addition to the other prohibited bases for discrimination under the Fair Housing Act.

REALTORS® celebrated the Supreme Court’s decision in *Bostock v. Clayton County*, in which it held that the prohibition on discrimination “because of sex” under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 included discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. We also applauded HUD’s quick action to implement the January 20, 2021 Executive Order on Preventing and Combating Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation.


By enacting the Fair and Equal Housing Act of 2024, Congress can extend federal protections to ensure all LGBTQ+ individuals are protected from housing discrimination. As NAR continues to work to make the American Dream available and accessible to all Americans, we stand ready to work with Congress to support and promote the Fair and Equal Housing Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kevin M. Sears'.

Kevin M. Sears
2024 President, National Association of REALTORS®

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