From: Kelly Hamrick

To: Public Testimony

Subject: Recent amendment proposed regarding the classification of source of income.

Date: Tuesday, December 12, 2023 11:10:31 AM

Good morning,

I wanted to respectfully express my disagreement with the recent amendment proposed by Mayor Quinton Lucas regarding the classification of source of income as a protected trait in housing discrimination. While I understand the intention behind this amendment is to address potential discrimination in housing, I believe that it may have unintended consequences. By classifying source of income as a protected trait, it could potentially limit the rights of property owners and landlords to make informed decisions about their tenants.

Property owners and landlords should have the freedom to consider various factors when selecting tenants, including their income source. This allows them to assess the financial stability and reliability of potential tenants, which is crucial for maintaining the integrity and sustainability of rental properties.

Furthermore, requiring an annual report on source of income discrimination complaints and enforcement, as well as standard language in rental applications, may impose additional burdens on property owners and landlords. These requirements could lead to increased administrative costs and potential legal challenges (especially in MO), ultimately discouraging individuals from participating in the rental market.

Instead of implementing this amendment, I believe it would be more effective to focus on education and outreach programs that promote fair housing practices and provide resources for both tenants and landlords. By fostering a better understanding of fair housing laws and encouraging open dialogue between tenants and landlords, we can work towards reducing discrimination without infringing on property rights.

I respectfully urge you to reconsider the proposed amendment and explore alternative solutions that balance the rights of property owners and landlords with the goal of addressing housing discrimination.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

--Thank you

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