



HELP US #DEFENDCIVILRIGHTS!

BREAKING //

The Trump Administration wants to
**GUT A CRUCIAL TOOL TO PREVENT
HOUSING DISCRIMINATION.** And this
is just the beginning if we don't stop this.

FIGHT BACK.



[Graphic and info via www.defendcivilrights.org.]

In an extreme move against a core civil rights protection, the Department of Housing and Urban Development is proposing a rule that would allow financial institutions, insurance companies, and housing providers to engage in covert discriminatory practices by dramatically weakening disparate impact liability under the Fair Housing Act.

For more than 45 years, “disparate impact” has been a crucial legal tool to fight discrimination and ensure equal housing opportunity. This protection means that companies and individuals covered under the Fair Housing Act must choose policies that apply fairly to all people. Some policies that seem neutral in theory can unfairly exclude certain groups of people or

segregate particular communities in practice. This protection allows us to identify and prevent harmful, inequitable, and unjustified policies, thereby ensuring that everyone can be treated fairly.

If the proposed rule goes into effect, a landlord could evict victims of domestic violence based on common leases that hold all tenants, even victims, responsible for crimes in their homes. A bank could charge excessive fees or rates to certain groups seeking home mortgage loans, creating high barriers to homeownership for people of color or people with disabilities. An apartment building could impose occupancy restrictions forcing families with children to rent more expensive apartments.

The devastating effect of this proposed rule would extend well beyond housing, jeopardizing civil rights protections in education, employment, healthcare, the environment, transportation, and the criminal justice system. We must not allow this rule to move forward.

Your voice matters. Help us defend civil rights!



Post on social media using the hashtag #DefendCivilRights and submit a comment to tell HUD why you oppose this harmful and cruel attack. The deadline to submit a comment is October 18, 2019. Make sure your voice is heard.

SUBMIT A COMMENT!

CARRIE PLEASANTS RECOGNIZED AMONG CLEVELAND'S NOTABLE WOMEN IN NONPROFITS



Congratulations to our Executive Director, Carrie Pleasants, for being recognized as one of Crain's Cleveland's [2019 Notable Women in Nonprofits](#)!

Emma Petrie Barcelona, Director of Compliance for EDEN Inc., said, "I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with Carrie for years in her various roles with the [Fair] Housing Center. She ... navigates astutely — with a quiet and calm demeanor — the political and challenging nuances of fair housing work, never backing down from telling the story of why fair housing is still something that must be fought for, paid attention to and continually worked toward for

Northeast Ohio's people and communities. Carrie has sustained a great team of fair housing practitioners — all while navigating the challenging nonprofit funding environment."

Carrie was among 45 Northeast Ohio nonprofit leaders on the list, whose energy, determination and devotion are helping to make our region a better place to live, work and grow.

CELEBRATING 29 YEARS OF THE ADA



On August 7, 2019, The Fair Housing Center joined other local accessibility advocates for an ADA Day Celebration at Wade Oval, where we shared pertinent information and resources with folks living with disabilities.

According to [ADA Cleveland](http://www.adacleveland.org), The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), was signed into law on July 26, 1990 by President George H.W. Bush. It prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life, including employment, state and local government services and programs, transportation, and all public and private places that are open to the general public. The purpose of the law is to make sure that individuals with disabilities have the same rights and opportunities as everyone else.

Local organizations that serve individuals with disabilities and advocate for equity, inclusion, and accessibility gathered for a special Wade Oval Wednesday event to celebrate the 29th anniversary of this essential civil rights law. Attendees were provided with vital information and resources in a fun, supportive atmosphere, while also enjoying food, music, and entertainment throughout the evening.

To learn more about ADA Cleveland, visit www.adacleveland.org.

CLEVELAND.COM HIGHLIGHTS SOURCE OF INCOME DISCRIMINATION IN SOUTH EUCLID



[Via cleveland.com]

In a recent cleveland.com article, columnist Leila Atassi highlighted the widespread source of income discrimination that is taking place in South Euclid — despite the city’s anti-discrimination ordinance.

The article details one woman’s struggle to find housing for her family, due to her status as a housing voucher holder. In 2015, South Euclid passed its anti-discrimination ordinance which bans discrimination based on a person’s source of income or reliance on public assistance. However, after learning of just how difficult it is for voucher holders to find housing in a place where the right to use a housing voucher is supposed to be protected, it becomes clear that many “landlords and property managers are ignoring the law with impunity.”

Some landlords claim they aren't discriminating against tenants by refusing vouchers; they just don't want to submit to the HUD property inspection that is required to accept a voucher. To that point, The Fair Housing Center's Senior Research Associate, Michael Lepley, was quoted, saying, "The point of the source of income law is that you don't get to make that argument. You don't get to say 'I don't want to go through the process.' That's discrimination. That said, a government can pass any law they want to, but if it isn't enforced, is it the law? If the city wants these laws to have an effect, they need to pursue complaints, make their population aware of their rights and have strong enforcement."

Read the full article and learn more about source of income discrimination in South Euclid [here](#).



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DARLENE ENGLISH SELECTED AS STOKES FELLOW FOR ADVANCED LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE



Director of Education & Outreach, Darlene English has been selected as a Stokes Fellow for the Advanced Leadership Institute (ALI). A program of the Cleveland Leadership Center, ALI provides community-minded professionals the space, skills, knowledge, and connections to collaborate on creating experiences that transform our community for the better. In celebration of the legacy of Carl and Louis Stokes, ALI is focused around five policy areas: education, health, housing, public safety, and workforce development.

We are proud of Darlene and excited for all she will learn and achieve through her involvement in this program!

SCHOOL'S IN SESSION: SCHEDULE A FAIR HOUSING PRESENTATION!



Here at The Fair Housing Center, we believe that it's never too early (or too late) to start learning about the importance of fair housing. That's why we want to engage with students of all ages — from Pre-K to college — to teach about **what** fair housing is, **why** it matters, and **how** students can work to create fair and equitable communities.

If you value equity, inclusion, and want to instill these values in younger generations, consider scheduling an interactive fair housing presentation for your students. Whether you're a teacher, student, or school administrator, we want to connect with you!

Give us a call (216-361-9240) or [visit our website](#) to learn more.

Know someone who would be interested in bringing a fair housing workshop to their school? Share this newsletter with them!

ABOUT THE FAIR HOUSING CENTER FOR RIGHTS & RESEARCH

The Fair Housing Center for Rights & Research (The Fair Housing Center) is a nonprofit fair housing organization whose mission is to protect and expand fair housing rights, eliminate housing discrimination, and promote integrated communities. The Fair Housing Center has been in existence for 35 years, beginning as the Metropolitan Strategy Group in 1983.

The federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 prohibits discrimination in the sale or rental of a dwelling on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status or disability. The purpose of the law is to eliminate housing discrimination and promote residential integration.

For more information visit www.thehousingcenter.org.

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