



**Testimony to the Environment & Transportation Committee
HB 231 – Housing Opportunities Made Equal (HOME) Act
Position: Support**

MAHC Supports HB 231

The Maryland Affordable Housing Coalition (MAHC) is a strong advocate for affordable rental housing programs in Maryland. Many of our members own and manage affordable rental housing properties across the State. HB 231 would require landlords to accept all forms of lawful income as rent. Currently in Maryland it is legal for landlords to refuse to rent to someone based on their source of income. Several jurisdictions have recently passed local ordinances that prevent discrimination based on source of income, but much of the State remains unprotected from discrimination based on source of income. HB 231 is an important step in continuing to support Fair Housing practices in our State, and we support the bill.

MAHC is the leading organization for the affordable rental housing industry in Maryland and has over 185 member organizations, including non-profit and for-profit developers, community action groups, state and local housing authorities, property management companies, financial institutions, community development organizations, contractors, investors, consultants and individuals.

Respectfully submitted on February 4, 2020 by Miranda Darden-Willems, on behalf of the MAHC Board of Directors.

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