

HB 1561: The HOME Act – SUPPORT

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Maryland Nonprofits
House Health and Government Operations Committee, March 6, 2020

Maryland Nonprofits strongly supports House Bill 1561 to prohibit persons from taking actions with discriminatory effect in housing transactions on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, disability, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin.

The need for HB 1561 is explained in the preamble to the bill. A proposed federal rule would make it more difficult to make and sustain claims of discrimination under the federal Fair Housing Act, by shifting and increasing the burden of proof on plaintiffs.

House Bill 1561 would counter-act the impact of that federal rule by providing plaintiffs a remedy under state law in Maryland.

Safe, adequate and affordable housing is already a serious challenge for many in Maryland and can be even more difficult for the classes protected under this bill. Stable safe housing is critical for all families, particularly those in poverty and seeking to escape it.

We urge you to **support House Bill 1561**.