



THE COORDINATING CENTER R
INSPIRED SOLUTIONS

Support
HB 90 – State and Local Housing Programs – Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing

House Environment and Transportation Committee
January 26, 2021

The Coordinating Center (The Center) supports *House Bill 90 – State and Local Housing Programs – Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing*. This bill requires the Department of Housing and Community Development and local jurisdictions to adopt “Affirmatively Further Fair Housing” actions and report on housing accessibility for disabled residents, including number of units, accessibility features, and demand.

The Center is an independent, care coordination organization with 38 years of experience, coordinating services for more than 10,000 people with disabilities and complex medical needs across the state. While much of the work conducted by The Center is funded through public and private partnerships with State agencies, hospital systems, and other health care entities, securing affordable housing options for individuals, including individuals with disabilities and complex medical needs, continues to be one of The Center’s greatest challenges. This is due to shortages in housing subsidies, a lack of affordable housing options, and unnecessary barriers such as nonviolent minor offenses included on background check.

For many individuals with significant disabilities and complex medical needs, housing assistance available through subsidies and vouchers are oftentimes the only means by which an individual may remain independent in their community. In most cases, there are multi-year waiting lists for housing assistance.

An additional barrier we continually encounter when assisting clients identify housing is the requirement to have a criminal records checks. Often, individuals are denied housing due to minor offenses, including public urination.

This bill assists in assessing the stateside demand by jurisdiction for accessible housing so that additional proactive actions can be developed in supporting individuals access affordable housing.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony. If you need any additional information, please contact Rachael Faulkner at (410) 693-4000 or rfaulkner@policypartners.net.

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