

February 19, 2021

The Honorable Senator Antonio Hayes
James Senate Office Building, Room 222
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Reference: Senate Bill 781 (House Bill 1095)

Dear Senator Hayes,

Please accept this letter of support for approval of SB 781 (HB 1095) which proposes to remove the requirement for the buyer(s) name(s) to be included on a residential contract of sale in the State of Maryland.

No person should be made to feel inferior, less than, or insecure about submitting a well-qualified offer to purchase a home due to their name.

As a realtor, I adhere very strongly to the code of ethics. I support and strongly defend all the protected classes. They exist because there was an obvious and clear need. I believe that the missing piece to all of this, protecting the buyer(s) from the art of what could be described as subtle discrimination, is keeping the name of the purchaser private.

I am an Associate Broker with 16 years of experience in the State of Maryland and I have personally witnessed this shadow discrimination on the occasions when my client's name was a clear and obvious indicator of either race or ethnicity. In many cases when that situation existed, I wondered if my client had been the victim of a subtle kind of discrimination. In fact, there have been numerous occasions when my client has asked (in so many words) *do you think my name will hinder my chances?*

There is only one way to remedy this potential problem—and that is to remove the buyer(s) name from the initial offer to purchase.

Respectfully,

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| <i>Elizabeth Monteleone</i> | dotloop verified 02/19/21 11:17 AM EST BKUS-ELI5-AODJ-3PAB |
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