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To whom it may concern,

Good afternoon my name is Ashley Osineme and I have been a realtor for eight years. First, thank you for taking the time to read my written testimonial that is in support of Bill HB1000. This bill means so much to me as I am first generation Nigerian and a person of color who is judged majority of the time on their last name. Starting from a young child I realized that I did not have a common last name like many of my other peers. In school, I would be known as “Ashley O” because many times people could not pronounce my name or even really want to try. As I continued in life my last name at times seemed more like a burden than something to be celebrated. I would consistently get questions such as “Where are you from” or “What are you mixed with” when applying for jobs or signing up for things and this started to become the norm. As a proud Nigerian-American, I know the importance of protecting someone's name that has so much meaning to it. Bill HB1000 would allow people like myself and others to be able to be seen solely based on their offer with no preconceived notions of who they are or where they might originate from during the negotiation process. Bill HB1000 to me is no different from the law that forbids homeowners to not allow audio recording in their homes during showings, inspections, or open houses to allow the buyer to have privacy to discuss their thoughts on the home or property. This bill is a major step for Fair Housing as it will hold sellers and agents accountable in choosing an offer that is suitable only based on facts and not bias. I know that at times change can be scary and a little unknown but with the passing of this bill, the future could be clearer when it comes to making sure that all are afforded the right to fair and equal housing treatment and practices. I could go on and on about why this bill means so much to me and others but I hope this brief paragraph may serve as an illustration as to why HB1000 is needed in Fair Housing and Real Estate. Thank you so much for your time.

All the best,
Ashley Osineme