

**Favorable for HB573 Fair Housing and Housing Discrimination - Regulations, Intent, and Discriminatory Effect**

Dear Honorable Chair Valderrama, Vice-Chair Charkoudian, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Linda Girdner and I live in Gambrills, MD. I am writing to urge you to **vote in favor of HB573 Fair Housing and Housing Discrimination - Regulations, Intent, and Discriminatory Effect**. Maryland needs to make sure we have fair housing laws that look at impact rather than intent.

Intent is hard to prove and due to implicit bias often is not even recognized by the person who is causing the harm. It is an insufficient and deleterious concept to apply to fairness in housing. Taking account of the impact of practices that yield discriminatory results is a better measure of harm than discerning the intentions and motivations behind those practices.

Therefore, I support **HB573 Fair Housing and Housing Discrimination - Regulations, Intent, and Discriminatory Effect** and urge you to do so in committee and in the General Assembly.

Thank you.

Linda Girdner

Member, SURJ Annapolis and Anne Arundel County