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Illinois Coalition for Fair Housing Applauds House Passage of Homeless Prevention Legislation, Urges Senate Approval

SPRINGFIELD – A broad coalition representing housing, civil justice, and other non-profit organizations in Illinois thanked legislators today after the House voted in favor of HB 2775, legislation that would provide greater access to housing for Illinoisans by fighting source of income discrimination.

Renters in Illinois have been turned away for decades because housing providers refuse the household's legal source of income. The decision can be arbitrary and often serve as a proxy for other forms of discrimination, such as race or disability discrimination, the Illinois Coalition for Fair Housing pointed out at a news conference last week. The discrimination leads to homelessness, further exacerbating the problem.

"As we celebrate the 53rd Anniversary of the Federal Fair Housing Act this month, the time has come for Illinois to better protect its residents and pass source of income protections statewide," said **HOPE Fair Housing Executive Director Evelyn Sanguinetti**. *"I applaud members of the House today – especially our chief sponsor Rep. LaShawn Ford – for their leadership and support of this important legislation that will help so many of our citizens keep a roof over their heads."*

HB2775 will strengthen Illinois' fair housing rights by creating new protections to fight source of income discrimination. These bills will protect single women, people with disabilities, people of color, and veterans from being refused housing solely because of their source of income, whether it be alimony, child support, social security, veteran's benefits, or rent assistance. For more information on the legislation and a full list of endorsers, visit HousingChoicePartners.org/soi-campaign.

Rep. LaShawn Ford (D-Chicago) said, *"The Source of Income protections will make Illinois a more just and equitable place to live. If the bill becomes law, we will join the many states that have protections in place to help prevent housing discrimination and continue building on the many fights to end housing discrimination in Illinois. I urge the Senate to move quickly to pass this bill so Illinoisans can get access to a home they financially deserve."*

"As I've said before on this topic, this legislation is critical now more than ever as we face a mounting housing affordability crisis and new destabilizing forces imposed by the pandemic," said **Sen. Karina Villa** (D-West Chicago). *"I applaud the House and Rep. Ford for ushering through this legislation and I am eager to work with senators from across Illinois to pass this and send it to the governor's desk. Not only will this legislation support those utilizing non-wage income and housing subsidies, but also workers like servers and bartenders who've experienced source of income discrimination because their profession may be viewed as unstable by housing providers. I'll continue standing up for equal access to housing to help strengthen family stability."*

Rep. Delia Ramirez (D-Chicago) said, “People of all walks of life from all across Illinois have come together in support of this bill. Veterans, persons with disabilities, single parents, and members of our black and brown communities will all benefit from this important piece of legislation. Next month, the Illinois Housing Development Authority will launch the second round of COVID-related emergency rental assistance, and I expect the Senate will recognize the urgent need to join the 19 other states in protecting their residents from discrimination against their Source of Income while trying to survive this pandemic.”

“Today’s passage of HB 2775 is cause for celebration. There are more than 80,000 older adults in Illinois who use Housing Choice vouchers to help pay their rent, which makes it easier for them to live in the communities of their choosing, close to the supports they need,” said **Rosanna Marquez, AARP Illinois Volunteer State President**. “On behalf of our 1.7 million members and all older adults in Illinois, AARP Illinois commends the Illinois House for passing legislation that will ensure qualified tenants do not experience discrimination that would keep them from aging in their own homes in dignity. We call on the Senate to quickly follow suit.”

“Zillow believes everyone deserves a safe, affordable home, free of discrimination. We support source of income discrimination protections as an important tool to help reduce housing barriers, increase housing equity and increase affordable housing opportunities,” said **Luke Bell, Zillow’s Midwest Region Government Relations and Public Affairs Manager**. “Zillow commends the members of the Illinois House for passing and advancing the bill today, an important first step to passing these protections into law.”

About HOPE Fair Housing: HOPE Fair Housing Center works to create greater housing opportunities for all. We want to ensure everyone has the chance to live in the community/home/apartment of their choice free from discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, familial status, or any other characteristics protected under state or local laws. HOPE accomplishes this through education, outreach, enforcement, training, and advocacy.

About Illinois Coalition for Fair Housing: The Illinois Coalition for Fair Housing is a growing group of impacted community members, advocates, and leaders committed to making housing access in Illinois equitable and just.

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