



Housing Opportunities Made Equal of Virginia, Inc.

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HOME of VA Supports HUD Lawsuit over Suspension of Fair Housing Rule

RICHMOND, VA – Housing Opportunities Made Equal of Virginia, Inc. (HOME) announced its support of the National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA) and other fair housing partners' lawsuit asking a federal court to order the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to reinstate a [federal rule](#) that local and state governments address segregated housing patterns as a condition of receiving HUD funding. The complaint alleges that HUD unlawfully suspended the rule in January 2018, effectively removing civil rights oversight of as much as \$5.5 billion per year until 2024 or later for almost 1,000 jurisdictions.

Read NFHA's full [press release](#). In addition, here is the [full complaint](#).

HOME's president and CEO Heather Crislip stated, "We remain a highly segregated society and this rule provided guidance, tools, and accountability for localities to address segregated housing patterns. Where you live has a big impact on how your life unfolds. It determines the schools your children attend, the jobs you have access to, the quality of your surroundings, your access to transportation and grocery stores and other important community resources. In our region, too many children are growing up in neighborhoods that lack these resources. This not only limits their life prospects, but undermines our region's prosperity."

Since July 2015, this affirmatively further fair housing (AFFH) rule required Virginia jurisdictions to be more deliberate and strategic about how they use their housing and community development resources to expand access to opportunity for all residents within each locality or risk losing HUD funding.

U.S. Senator Tim Kaine stated, "This [rule](#) is critical to help address unfair housing practices. As a former fair housing lawyer, I have seen that too many Americans face discrimination when they try to rent or buy a home, and I know how important it is to have policies like this rule to advance fair housing protections. I've written to HUD to speak out against these threats to the rule, and I hope it will stay in place."

"What HUD has done in suspending the AFFH Rule can only be described as dereliction of its solemn duty to ensure that federal housing funds are distributed only to jurisdictions that comply with their civil rights obligations," said Michael Allen, partner in the civil rights firm Relman, Dane & Colfax. "Flouting the rule of law, HUD's action signals to every jurisdiction in the country that there will be no consequence for civil rights violations, and that HUD has no interest in helping cities, counties and states to expand housing opportunities for their residents."

Housing Opportunities Made Equal of Virginia, Inc. (HOME), founded in 1971, is a statewide fair housing and HUD-approved housing counseling 501(c)(3) non-profit. HOME's mission is to ensure equal access to housing for all people. HOME's mission is to ensure equal access to housing for all people. HOME fulfills its mission to ensure equal access to housing for all people by addressing the still glaring individual instances of housing discrimination. Additionally, HOME works to tackle systemically divisive housing practices on a larger scale through fair housing enforcement and research, advocacy, and statewide policy work. HOME also takes direct action to aid first-time homebuyers and families with homes under the threat of foreclosure. At a time when unequal access to housing and credit contributes most to the United States' growing wealth gap, HOME's multi-faceted approach is a powerful catalyst toward furthering fair housing. You can learn more about HOME and all of its services at www.HOMEofVA.org.

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