

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Media Advisory

Equal Housing – Equal Voice **(Housing Advocates to Converge on Capitol Square– January 31st)**

Who: Housing Opportunities Made Equal of Virginia, Inc., Habitat for Humanity Virginia,
& Virginia Housing Coalition

What: Equal Housing - Equal Voice Lobby Day 2008

Where: 7:30am—SunTrust Executive Dining Room, 919 E. Main St., 14th Floor, Richmond.
9:30-11:30am—General Assembly

When: January 31, 2008; 7:30am-1pm

Why we care:

There are many reasons why the General Assembly needs to hear about housing issues. Deceptive and abusive lending practices are leaving too many Virginia families at risk of foreclosure. A new breed of scammers preys on vulnerable Virginians faced with the loss of their homes. The cost of housing continues to exceed income growth, making housing unaffordable to many Virginians. So who is making sure these and other housing issues are considered priorities by Virginia’s legislators?

Equal Housing, Equal Voice Lobby Day will allow advocates from across Virginia to take a stand on important housing issues by visiting Capitol Square. There they will have full access to the legislative process and elected officials, up close and personal. Beginners will take a tour of Capitol Square and learn the process. Intermediate advocates will sit in on committee sessions and then interact with legislators and their aides. Advanced advocates will have planned legislative visits to encourage policy change. “Housing doesn’t just affect individual families,” said Helen O’Beirne, HOME’s lobbyist and Director of HOME’s Center for Housing Leadership. “Rather, the current housing crisis impacts entire communities.”

Factoid:
In Virginia ,
There were over 24,000
foreclosure filings in
2007!

That is up more than
450% from 2006.

HOME’s mission is to ensure equal access to housing for all people. HOME’s Center for Housing Advocacy helps protect all Virginians from illegal housing discrimination. HOME’s Center for Housing Education helps buyers to be successful, long-term homeowners and helps homeowners keep their homes from foreclosure or scam artists. HOME’s Center for Housing Leadership provides key research and advocacy resources for statewide housing concerns. For more information on HOME and its programs, visit www.phoneHOME.org or call 804-354-0641.

Members of the media are encouraged to participate in the process.

However, we know your time is valuable, so we hope your coverage of this event will help housing stay a top priority in this year’s General Assembly. Thank you in advance!