



Austin Association of Real Estate Brokers
P.O. Box 90803
Austin, TX 78709

Dear Jonathan Babiak,

The Austin chapter of the National Association of Real Estate Brokers submits this letter in support of the amendment to the City's Fair Housing Ordinance to add "source of income" as a protected class.

Our organization was formed in 1947 out of a need to secure the right to equal housing opportunities regardless of race, creed, or color. Since its inception, we have participated in meaningful exchanges and legislative activities, to establish fair housing for all.

Today we join forces to add regardless of the legal source of income. To oppose this measure would be paramount to saying we will not sell to someone whose funds came from the lottery or an inheritance or a tax return.

The Austin Association of Real Estate brokers further believes that the decision to accept vouchers should not be made at the time of listing, but after receiving the application. Thus, as many other real estate listing services have done, the option to accept section 8 applicants should be removed from the Austin multiple listing services. Allowing all qualified applicants to apply.

AAREB also believes that once approved, the vouchered applicant should be treated as any other tenant, with all privileges there in.

We do however take exception to any additional demands placed on the landlord in order to accommodate a vouchered applicant. The investor has the right to protect his or her income and the asset that produces the income. We hope that the bottom-line business decision will override the temptation of discrimination and open housing opportunities to ALL those seeking rentals in the city of Austin regardless of race, creed, color...or the source of income.

Thank you,


J. Rene Ward

President of the Austin Association of Real Estate Brokers

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