

Date

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

To Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, and Minority Leader McCarthy:

We, the **X** undersigned organizations, urge you to enact the “Fair Housing Improvement Act” ([S.4485](#)), introduced by Senators Tim Kaine (D-VA), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Michael Bennet (D-CO), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV), Alex Padilla (D-CA), and Cory Booker (D-NJ); and its House companion, ([H.R.8213](#)) from Representative Scott Peters (D-CA), Alan Lowenthal (D-CA), Dwight Evans (D-PA), Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), Shontel Brown (D-OH), and Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC). The “Fair Housing Improvement Act” prohibits housing discrimination based on source of income and military and veteran status. When enacted, this legislation would protect low-income households, veterans, and servicemembers, from housing discrimination.

Making rental assistance available to all eligible households is central to any successful strategy to solve the housing crisis. A growing body of research finds that increasing access to stable, affordable housing can: [improve health outcomes](#) for children, adults, and seniors; [improve educational outcomes](#) for children; [increase families’ opportunity of upward economic mobility](#) and ability to exit poverty; increase [racial equity](#) and [gender equity](#); and [reduce barriers to stability for people re-entering](#) society after transitioning out of the criminal legal system.

Too often, households can struggle to find landlords willing to accept their housing assistance, including HUD Housing Choice Vouchers, Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) vouchers, or other state and local resources. [Landlords frequently discriminate](#) against households receiving rental assistance, often as a proxy for racial discrimination, leaving these households with few options for where to live. [Research](#) shows landlords deny housing to households with federal rental assistance, particularly in markets without source of income protections. Housing discrimination prevents low-income people from living in neighborhoods of their choice, including areas with access to jobs that pay decent wages, high-performing schools, healthcare, and transit. While [several states and localities](#) have passed source of income protection laws, federal law does not protect against this type of discrimination, and state and local enforcement varies widely. A federal solution is needed.

It is critical that Congress enact the Fair Housing Improvement Act to protect low-income households from housing discrimination, and to create more choice in affordable housing.

Sincerely,