



TALKING POINTS

FAIR CHANCE AT HOUSING ACT

1. Every year, over 600,000 people return to their communities from prison and often face profound housing insecurity.
2. Having a criminal record only compounds the issue of our nation's shortage of available affordable housing by further limiting the few available options that do exist.
3. For housing data for your state, see <https://nlihc.org/housing-needs-by-state>.
4. The Fair Chance at Housing Act requires public housing agencies (PHAs) and owners of HUD-assisted housing to perform an individualized review of each applicant that considers the totality of the circumstances when considering criminal history.
5. It would eliminate overly harsh and disfavored "one strike" policies. Instead, PHAs and owners would only be allowed to consider certain criminal conduct that threatens the health or safety of other tenants, employees, owners, or PHAs prior to an eviction.
6. PHAs can currently ban a non-tenant from visiting a public housing development permanently based on criminal conduct without evidence, notice, or an opportunity to appeal, keeping many families apart. This bill would limit PHAs to only banning non-tenants from visiting if they were convicted of a felony that threatens the health or safety of other tenants, employees, owners, or PHAs, and only after a thorough consideration of all mitigating factors, including familial relationships between the tenant and non-tenant.
7. It would also direct the Secretary of Agriculture to revise USDA's regulations regarding screening and termination of assistance procedures for its rural housing programs to be consistent with HUD's own policies.

ASK:

Support the Fair Chance at Housing Act to reduce the impact of the collateral consequences associated with having a criminal record by expanding access to stable, decent, accessible, and affordable homes.



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