

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 19, 2013

The Honorable Tom Latham
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing and Urban Development &
Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ed Pastor
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing and Urban Development &
Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Latham and Ranking Member Pastor:

As the Transportation-HUD Appropriations Subcommittee begins its work for Fiscal Year 2014, we urge you to provide level funding of \$44.1 million for the federal Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP).

HUD's Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP) provides unique and vital services to the public and the housing industry. Private non-profit fair housing organizations are the only private organizations in the country that educate the community and the housing industry, and enforce the laws intended to protect all of us against housing discrimination. These organizations investigate 69% of the nation's complaints, more than twice as many as all government agencies combined. FHIP is the only dedicated source of funding for these fair housing activities.

FHIP also saves money for the federal government as well as for state and local governments. According to a recent HUD study, "FHIP grantee organizations weed out cases that are not covered by civil rights statutes" or that do not have merit, thereby avoiding costly lawsuits and mediations. The vetting of complaints by fair housing organizations "saves resources for HUD and state agencies which will not have to investigate these complaints." HUD relies on local fair housing

organizations to not only investigate complaints of housing discrimination but also to help educate the public about their fair housing rights.

The role of private non-profit fair housing organizations is threefold: to educate the housing industry regarding its responsibilities under the Fair Housing Act; to educate consumers regarding their rights under the Fair Housing Act; and to ensure enforcement.

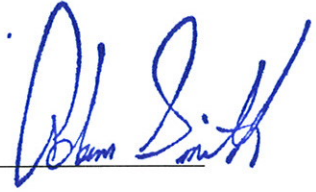
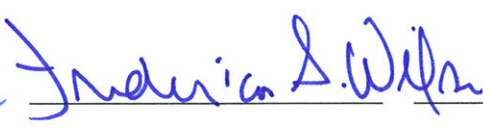

There is significant demand for additional federal resources for this competitive grant program. During this time of market uncertainty, when there are both continued high rates of foreclosure and strong governmental programs proposed to strengthen communities, we cannot let invidious discrimination undercut efforts that help our local residents, many of whom are veterans - with disabilities maintain a roof over their heads.

Funding this critical program at \$44.1 million in FY 2014 will allow fair housing organizations across the country to continue to address the problem of housing discrimination which may often involve our veterans. We ask for your support of this annual appropriation when you markup the FY 2014 T-HUD Appropriations bill in the coming months. Thank you for your consideration and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



AL GREEN
Member of Congress



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MR

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Billy Scott

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Al King

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