

JUN 21 1988



CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA, INC.
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June 20, 1988

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Dear Representative:

I am writing to urge your support for H.R. 1158, the Fair Housing Amendments of 1988, as reported by the Judiciary Committee, when it comes before the House on June 22nd.

CWLA is particularly supportive of the familial status provision contained in H.R. 1158 and urges you to vote against an amendment to strike it, which we anticipate will be offered by Rep. E. Clay Shaw (R-FL). Further, we urge you to vote against any amendments which would seek to weaken, in any way, the familial status provision.

A 1980 Department of Housing and Urban Development study showed that 25% of all rental units in the U.S. do not allow children and another 50% have policies restricting the ability of families with children to rent. It is deplorable that this country should allow 75% of its rental housing the ability to restrict families with children!

As a result of such restrictions, families now account for 28% of the nation's homeless population and children are increasingly being placed in foster care for the sole reason that their families have no place to live. In New Jersey, between 900 - 1200 children (18% of the state's total foster care population) were living in foster homes in 1986 because their families could not find housing.

The familial status provision of H.R. 1158 would prohibit such restrictions while protecting senior citizens communities. Accordingly, we urge to vote in favor of H.R. 1158 and against any amendments which seek to strike or weaken the protections for families with children.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David S. Liederman
Executive Director

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