



INTERNATIONAL UNION, UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AEROSPACE & AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS OF AMERICA—UAW

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June 21, 1988

Dear Representative:

It has been widely-recognized for many years that the federal fair housing statute was not effective enough as an instrument for preventing discrimination in the sale and rental of housing. The House of Representatives will have an opportunity to make that law more effective when it takes up H.R. 1158, the proposed Fair Housing Amendments.

The UAW strongly supports H.R. 1158, and we urge that you vote for it and against amendments designed to weaken the bill.

As you probably know, a compromise on the enforcement provisions of the bill has been worked out. It will be offered by Representative Fish and, we understand, it will be accepted by the manager of the bill.

H.R. 1158, as amended, would strengthen the enforcement mechanism of the existing fair housing law by authorizing the Department of Housing and Urban Development to prosecute cases of alleged discrimination before administrative law judges or in the U.S. district courts.

Under current law, HUD tries first to conciliate discrimination complaints. It must do that under H.R. 1158 as well. But, under the existing law, HUD has no other mechanism to enforce the protections of the statute. H.R. 1158 provides that if conciliation fails, HUD may file a charge against the party accused of discrimination if there are reasonable grounds to believe that the fair housing statute has been violated.

Currently, the fair housing law prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, national origin or sex. H.R. 1158 would extend the law's protections to handicapped persons and families with children under 18. It also would set minimum standards for multi-family construction to permit accessibility for the handicapped.

The UAW has strongly supported local, state and federal efforts to prevent discrimination in housing. We supported the 1968 federal fair housing measure, but it has proven too weak. H.R. 1158 is long-overdue legislation, and we urge you to support the compromise to be offered by Representative Fish. We also urge you to oppose amendments designed to weaken this important measure.

Thank you for your consideration of our position on H.R. 1158.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dick Warden".

Dick Warden
Legislative Director

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