



CONGRESSWOMAN CARDISS COLLINS

Democrat, 7th District of Illinois
2438 Rayburn Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
202--225-5006

VOL. IV. No. 55

October 24, 1980

PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT: BUD MYERS
(202) 225-5006

Congresswoman Cardiss Collins hails HUD recognition of people's right to have subsidized housing in their own neighborhoods.

Congresswoman Collins (7th D-111) today lauded the statement of HUD's Assistant Secretary that the Department planned to announce a new policy for locating federally subsidized housing next year. "I am pleased that HUD is now prepared to recognize the right of people to have a fair share of assisted housing where the majority of them want to live" she said.

Collins has fought for subsidized housing in minority and low income areas for the past several years. According to high level HUD officials, Congresswoman Collins provided much of the initial ~~important~~ input into HUD's decision to reevaluate its rules for where subsidized housing may be built. In her fight to get more assisted housing for lower-income Chicago neighborhoods, Collins has met with officials of the HUD Chicago area office, then Secretary Patricia Harris and discussed the issue with President Carter in May of 1978. As Chairwoman of the Manpower and Housing Subcommittee of the House Committee on Government Operations, she held hearings on the effects of the Gautreaux decision in September of that year. Congresswoman Collins also introduced legislation to free Chicago from the strait-jacket of the Gautreaux formula.

Although the Congresswoman ardently supports open housing, she objects to holding Chicago housing programs hostage to the unworkable dispersion formula of the Gautreaux decision, which prevents subsidized housing from being built in black neighborhoods (Minority). "Most people want to remain in their present neighborhoods", Collins stated, "and we should provide affordable housing to those in that location entitled to it." Collins noted with satisfaction the statement that HUD will require serious attempts to deconcentrate lower income families and provide a wider choice of housing opportunities.

"I intend to monitor closely HUD's progress in this crucial effort to reevaluate the standards for locating subsidized housing, Collins concluded, "We in Chicago have been particularly hard hit by restrictive rules, and we look forward to a chance to provide housing to our people who want to stay in their present neighborhoods."