

# HB 2775: Expanding Housing Opportunities for All

May 2022

After two decades of advocacy efforts, House Bill 2775 passed both houses of Illinois Congress on April 7th. This bill ensures that Illinois renters who are seeking housing can no longer be discriminated against if they pay rent with non-wage sources of income, such as social security, veterans' assistance, or for the 99,000 Illinois households that use Housing Choice Vouchers to cover rent.

When we first joined the Illinois Coalition for Fair Housing as interns in the fall of 2021, we had a full understanding of the roles that the stigmatization of public assistance and racial stereotyping play in the denial of housing. As we began working to move HB 2775 forward, we began to realize that much of these instances were going unreported. The Coalition worked hard to center the experiences of persons who have been directly impacted by source of income discrimination. These community leaders not only shared their compelling stories, but they also helped strategize and gain support for HB 2775.

As we moved through the economic outcomes of the COVID-19 pandemic, we had assumed that political support for HB 2775 would come with ease. Instead, a massive collaborative effort between sponsoring legislators, the fourteen organizations in the coalition, over 100 endorsing organizations, and hundreds more individual witnesses were required to drive forward the Illinois Source of Income Campaign.

After such a heavy lift by this strong Coalition, we are proud to know that HB 2775 will give families throughout the state of Illinois protection from housing discrimination, regardless of the legal source of how they pay rent. Becoming a part of a coalition with such collaborative dedication to fair housing has been a true inspiration for change.

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HCP and CAFHA are proud members of the Illinois Coalition for Fair Housing