

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 875

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

Hearing Date: March 16, 2021 8:00 AM

Sydney Farrier

self/ retired social worker

DALLAS, TX

I strongly support HB 875 by Representative Lopez. In the past few years I have participated in a Housing sub-committee of The Senior Source of Dallas and we examined this issue. A number of states (Hawaii and Connecticut to name two) and municipalities have passed laws that prohibit housing discrimination on the basis of age. There are 10,000 people turning 65 y/o every day and as this population continues to increase, housing will become an increasingly critical issue. Already affordable housing for older adults is in very short supply. Texas needs to protect it's older adult population by prohibiting housing discrimination on the basis of age. Thank you.

Shannon Jones

The Senior Source

MESQUITE, TX

I SUPPORT HB 875!

Karen Dibling

self; Human Resource specialist

Garland, TX

I SUPPORT HB 875!

Emily Grooms

Self

Dallas, TX

Equitable assess to housing is an issue. It is especially so for elder Texans. Age discrimination in employment has been exacerbated in pandemic conditions. Voucher systems are another feature in discriminatory patterns. Many of my friends and colleagues have experienced some of these same conditions. Diminished income from age-related work discrimination paves the way for housing discrimination. If an elder's income is limited, then housing options are seriously curtailed, i. e., people with vouchers can be refused access because the rental agent/owner objects to the source and method of payment. I support HB 875:

Joi Anne Garrett, General Partner

Memory Care Consulting

Dalas, TX

Equitable assess to housing is an old, old community issue. Elder Texans are often burdened with this issue. Some elders

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approach the housing arena with two strikes against them, i.e., they have inadequate education, and that paved the way for lower wage employment options. If income is limited, then housing options are seriously curtailed. People with vouchers may be refused access because the rental agent/owner does not want to deal with potential administrative burdens entailed by voucher paperwork. I support HB 875: We need to eliminate discrimination in housing for elders and for all families. In the early years of reform attempts, school boards bused children, in efforts to secure improved/equitable education opportunities. The real answer was housing. If people could live in better school districts, their children would have better educational opportunities. Social resistances were much higher then, and many many minorities could not live in the neighborhoods they could afford. Following the same pattern, if elders could live in less challenging settings, crime and related dangers could be lessened.

Besides educational quality, the best investment Texas could make in it's long-term future would be infrastructure, renewable energy, and fair housing. Those three efforts would build an open society.

In summary: We didn't try to change much but transportation among school districts in the 1960's and 1970's.. Let's go back to the primary causal factor: Housing. Our laws must support ending discriminations based on both/either age and forms of payment.

John Johnson

TSHL

Dallas, TX

Your help and support regarding this bill is appreciated

Fernando Rojas, Former Architect

Self

Mesquite, TX

It is time to provide this protection to seniors

Marlene Cohen

Self/community volunteer

Dallas, TX

My name is Marlene Cohen and I am a resident of Dallas, TX. Not only am I an older adult, I am a volunteer with several organizations that provide services for older adults.

Please support House Bill 875 to prevent age discrimination in all housing, including single-family and owner-occupied housing that is otherwise exempt from the Texas Fair Housing Act.

Ageism is the stereotyping and discrimination against people based on their age. Ageism is widespread and has harmful effects on the health and well-being of older adults. For older people, ageism is an everyday challenge. Overlooked for employment, restricted from social services, and stereotyped in the media, ageism marginalizes and excludes older people in their communities.

The Texas Legislation should determine that there should not be age discrimination in housing of any kind. The Texas Fair Housing Act protects citizens from discriminatory housing practices in the sale, rental, and financing of dwellings based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, physical or mental disability, or familial status, but it does not protect older adults from age discrimination. Many other states have recognized the reality of age discrimination and include it in their Fair Housing Acts.

There is a shortage of affordable housing for families and for older adults. For some, shared housing is an option. Shared housing should be addressed within the Texas Fair Housing Act.

Thank you for your support of HB 875.

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