

Chairman Dever  
Ohio House of Representatives  
Financial Institutions, Housing and Urban Development Committee

Written-Only Testimony – HB 282

Dear Chairman Dever,

21 November 2017

On behalf of CHN Housing Partners, I am writing in opposition to House Bill 282. CHN Housing Partners (formerly Cleveland Housing Network), was founded in 1981. CHN is a large-scale affordable housing developer, owner and housing service provider that works with its partners to solve major housing challenges for low-income people and underserved communities. CHN partners with utility companies, financial institutions and public agencies to manage and deliver large-scale housing resources. CHN also partners with people—low-income individuals, families, seniors, the disabled and the homeless—to improve their housing stability. CHN’s impact in Cleveland includes 2,500 new homeowners, the housing stability services it provides annually to 30,000 individuals, and the development of 6,000 new homes.

HB 282 is proposing onerous new penalties that are unnecessary, punitive, are likely preempted by federal law, interfere with a local communities’ ability to determine local needs, present additional barriers to successful reentry among formerly-incarcerated individuals, contradicts federal fair housing guidelines governing Public Housing Authorities (PHAs), and place an additional burden on PHAs.

***As a landlord ourselves, we do not support the overreaching provisions contained in this bill.*** In our experience, low income tenants, especially those of color, struggle to find quality, affordable, stable housing. HB 282 will make matters far worse for those who need housing the most. PHAs already have the discretion to deny housing assistance based on past behavior and we suggest that the legislature leave this decision to local officials who are in a far better position to make these determinations.

In closing, we believe the provisions in this bill are unnecessary, punitive and duplicative, and as such, we stand in opposition.

Sincerely,



Kate Monter Durban  
Assistant Director