



## **State Representatives Adam C. Miller and Terrence Upchurch**

### **Sponsor Testimony Regarding H. B. No. 182 (As Prepared)**

Thank you Chair Hillyer, Vice Chair Grendell, Ranking Member Galonski for allowing us to provide testimony on this important piece of legislation.

This simple bill would prohibit landlords from discriminating against tenants who utilize the federal government's Housing Choice Voucher program.

The Fair Housing Act of 1968, as amended in 1988, prohibits discrimination in housing on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status, or disability.

But discrimination in housing, particularly against economic disadvantaged minorities, continues. We know of increased reports and incidences where landlords are refusing to take a housing voucher as a form of payment.

This is discrimination plain and simple. It is not a business decision. Housing vouchers have the backing and full faith and credit of the US Government. The money is assured and the future ability to pay is known and guaranteed. This is something many tenants paying in other ways cannot provide.

Most landlords are stepping up; doing the right thing. This bill just codifies common sense: you shouldn't be able to deny someone a home because they are getting some help. The whole movement to vouchers was aimed at inclusion and choice, this bill helps ensure that.

Thank you for your time, we'd be happy to answer any questions.