



June 10, 2014

RE: H.R. 4745 (Oppose Amendment by Representative Paul Gosar)

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Dear Representative,

On behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union, please find attached our vote recommendation opposing Rep. Paul Gosar's Amendment to H.R. 4745, the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2015. A recorded vote on this amendment is anticipated on the House floor today.

Please call Legislative Counsel Jennifer Bellamy with any questions at (202) 715-0828.

Regards,

Laura W. Murphy
Director, Washington Legislative Office

American Civil Liberties Union urges you to oppose Rep. Paul Gosar’s Amendment to H.R. 4745

Rep. Gosar’s amendment would prohibit HUD from finalizing, implementing, and enforcing its Fair Housing Act regulation promoting inclusive communities and access to opportunity for all people. HUD has proposed and received comments to its Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing regulation (FR-5173-P-01) and is nearing its release of the final rule.

The ACLU recommends opposing the amendment for the following reasons:

- **Rep. Gosar’s amendment flies in the face of our nation’s efforts to expand opportunity and fairness for all.** We all believe in equal opportunity and fair access to housing choice for all people. The Fair Housing Act supports the policy of the United States to promote diverse and inclusive communities free from discrimination. This amendment would bar HUD from finalizing and implementing its Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing regulation and will hinder progress towards equality for all American families by blocking HUD from providing much needed help to state and local governments
- **HUD’s proposed regulation provides helpful guidance to cities and counties for existing obligations – making the process easier and less expensive.** The Fair Housing Act makes it clear that any jurisdiction receiving federal housing and community development funds must demonstrate that it is spending those funds fairly and equitably. The regulation imposes no new obligations; it simply explains in greater detail the options that localities have for living up to the commitment that they’ve already made. HUD is making easier and less expensive to meet this commitment by providing new sources of data and guidance. Cities and towns don’t have to seek HUD funds for their projects, but when they do, they have an obligation to taxpayers to further fair housing and access to quality housing of their choice
- **HUD’s regulation gives all children a chance to live in neighborhoods with good schools and the resources to thrive.** It’s about all families—whatever they look like and wherever they come from—having an equal opportunity to seek a home and fair treatment in any neighborhood. And it’s about the diverse and thriving communities that are core to America’s strength in an interconnected country and world.

For more information, please contact Jennifer Bellamy, Legislative Counsel, at (202) 715-0828 or jbellamy@aclu.org.