



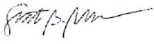
HOWARD COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

9820 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite 237 ■ Columbia, Maryland 21046 ■ 410-313-6430
 FAX 410-313-6468 Voice/Relay

Yolanda F. Sonnier, Executive Secretary
 HRC Email: hrc@howardcountymd.gov
 Fatina Jackson, Recording Secretary
 Melissa Goldmeier, Legal Counsel

Scott B Markow, Chairperson
 Chuen-Chin Bianca Chang, Vice Chair
 Mabrooka Chaudhry, Commissioner
 Lynda Earle, Commissioner
 Bob Ford, Commissioner
 Joan Hash, Commissioner
 Jonah Hornum, Commissioner
 Peter Hwang, Commissioner
 Tiffany Releford, Commissioner
 Gabriel Terrasa, Commissioner
 Sahara Ukaegbu, Commissioner
 Kui Zhao, Commissioner

To: Howard County Council Members

From: Scott B. Markow 
 Chair, Howard County Human Rights Commission

Date: November 22, 2021

Re: Testimony in Support of CB85-2021

The Howard County Human Rights Commission (HRC) strongly supports Council Bill CB85-2021. This bill contains several important amendments to the Howard County Code, Sections 12.207, 12.207A and 12.217, related to unlawful housing practices, commercial leases, and nonexclusive remedies.

Most important among these is the addition of commercial leasing throughout the list of unlawful housing practices set forth in Section 12.207A. We believe it is just as important that small business owners be protected against discrimination in commercial leases as tenants are when renting residential housing. This will close a significant loophole in the current housing discrimination code.

The amendments to the definition of source of income in Section 12.207 are also needed in order to bring the Howard County Code into conformity with state and federal law. Finally, the amendments to Section 12.217 will allow the Office of Human Rights and Equity (OHRE) or the HRC to terminate administrative proceedings in the event a complainant also sues in any state or federal court with jurisdiction. This will reduce administrative burdens on both the OHRE and HRC, while also avoiding inconsistent outcomes and forum shopping.

For all of the foregoing reasons, the HRC urges the County Council to enact CB85-2021.

Sayers, Margery

From: hrc
Sent: Monday, November 22, 2021 5:14 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Sonnier, Yolanda; Scott Markow (HRC)
Subject: HRC Testimony in Support of CB85-2021
Attachments: HRC Legislative Support.pdf

Good Afternoon Council Members,

Please find attached the HRC Legislative Support memo asking for your support of Council Bill CB85-2021, related to unlawful Housing Practices, Commercial Leases, and nonexclusive remedies for the Housing Discrimination section of the Howard County Code. Please let me know should you have any questions.

Thank you,

Fatina Jackson
HRC Recording Secretary
410-313-6457



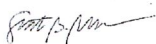
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