



F R O M	Name & Title	Oxiris Barbot, MD Commissioner 	Health Department	 HEALTH DEPARTMENT CITY OF BALTIMORE 1797 BALTIMORE MARYLAND
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201		
	Subject	Council Bill 13-0209 – Discriminatory Practices – Housing Status		

To: President and Members
of the City Council
c/o 409 City Hall

June 4, 2013

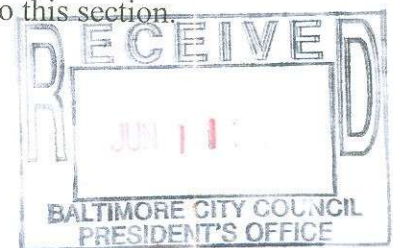
The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to review Council Bill 13-0209 Discriminatory Practices – Housing Status. The purpose of this bill is to prohibit certain discriminatory practices based on housing status define certain terms; reorder certain lists for consistency; correct, clarify, and conform related provisions; and generally relating to community relations and discriminatory practices.

This bill seeks to ensure that no person is discriminated against based on their housing status. City Code Art. 4, §3-4 addresses health and welfare agencies. “It is an unlawful practice for any health and welfare agency or any owner, supervisor, staff person, director, manager, or officer of a health and welfare agency to: ... (3) communicate, publish, advertise, or represent: ... (ii) that the patronages of any person is unwelcome, objectionable, or unacceptable because of race, color, religion... OR HOUSING STATUS.”

BCHD agrees that health and welfare agencies should not discriminate based on housing status and therefore concur with the addition of this language to this section.

Additionally, City Code Art. 5, §31-3 addresses Finance, Property, and Procurement’s Health Care Advisory Panel. The Advisory Panel conducts an annual a review of all persons, providers or provider panels “prequalified to provide health care services to employees or dependents of employees of the City of Baltimore.” This bill provides additional language to ensure that each entity seeking to provide health care services consider all applicants without regard to (1) “HOUSING STATUS (AS THESE TERMS ARE DEFINED IN CITY CODE ARTICLE 4 {COMMUNITY RELATIONS}” and (2) “that all solicitations or advertisements for applicants for membership on provider panels state that all qualified applicants will be considered without regard to... HOUSING STATUS (AS THESE TERMS ARE DEFINED IN CITY CODE ARTICLE 4 {COMMUNITY RELATIONS}”.

BCHD believes that the Health Care Advisory Panel should ensure that no providers discriminate based on housing status and agree with the addition of this language to this section.



We support the concepts set forth in Council Bill 13-0209, and will participate in the hearing if requested to provide any information that may be needed in assisting the council in making an informed decision.

cc: Angela Gibson, Office of the Mayor
Valerie Rogers, Chief of Staff, Department of Health
~~Amy Samnian, Legislative Director, Department of Health~~
