

Joseph L. Smith
Chairman, Board of Commissioners
Janet Abrahams
Executive Director



MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

From: Janet Abrahams, Executive Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Janet", is written over the "From:" line.

Date: December 10, 2018

Re: City Council Bill 18-308, Community Relations – Housing Discrimination – Source of Income

The Housing Authority of Baltimore City (HABC) has reviewed City Council Bill 18-0308, for the purpose of prohibiting, as unlawful discriminatory housing practices, certain practices based on source of income; defining certain terms; clarifying and confirming related provisions; and generally related to community relations and discriminatory practices.

If enacted, this bill will make it unlawful for landlords to discriminate against tenants based on their source of income. HABC supports the passage of City Council Bill 18-0308.

While HABC acknowledges the importance of protecting tenants in Baltimore City from discrimination based on their source of income, it also recognizes that tenants often search for housing on a regional basis. In order to protect tenants throughout Maryland from said discrimination, HABC believes that similar legislation should be pursued at the state level. HABC strongly supports City Council Bill 18-0117R, Request for State Action – Prohibiting Source of Income Discrimination in Housing, for the purpose of requesting that the Maryland General Assembly add “source of income” to Maryland’s fair housing law and thus prohibit source of income discrimination in housing.

JA:jd

cc: Kyron Banks, *Mayor’s Office of Government Relations*