



February 3, 2020

The Honorable Will Smith
Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: SB 0530 – Housing Opportunities Made Equal Act – Oppose

Dear Senator Smith:

Senate Bill 0530 seeks to expand the housing policy of the State regarding the provision of fair housing to include providing for fair housing regardless of source of income. This is not a good bill and Carroll County Chamber of Commerce is in opposition.

The Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, a business advocacy organization of over 600 members, does not support this bill as it puts additional requirements on the Landlord and their decision to approve prospective applicants for their units. The law currently is set up to allow the landlord to choose whether he/she will allow Section 8 housing. Once that decision is made, the landlord cannot discriminate on which properties are Section 8, and which are not. To not give the landlord the opportunity to make that decision, is tying their hands and allowing the government to decide who will reside in their rental units. This decision needs to be left with the Landlord.

The Carroll County Chamber of Commerce requests that you give this bill an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mike McMullin'.

Mike McMullin
President
Carroll County Chamber of Commerce

CC: Senator Justin Ready
Delegate Haven Shoemaker