



Councilmember Lori Droste
District 8

CONSENT CALENDAR
April 25, 2017

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmembers Lori Droste and Ben Bartlett
Subject: Resolution in defense of the Fair Housing Act

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution in defense of the Fair Housing Act and send a letter to Sen. Dianne Feinstein, Sen. Kamala Harris, and Rep. Barbara Lee calling them to oppose S. 103 and H.R. 482, which would undermine the Fair Housing Act.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Minimal.

BACKGROUND

US Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ) and Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT) have introduced H.R. 482 and S. 103, calling to weaken the Fair Housing Act and interfere with its implementation and enforcement. Their proposed legislation would weaken the ability of communities to push for equal and inclusive communities and undermine affordable housing and integration efforts.

As a progressive, forward-thinking city, Berkeley stands in support of fair housing and equal access to opportunity. This resolution will reaffirm Berkeley's stance and urge our elected leaders to vote to support fair housing and stand in defense of equal opportunity and desegregation.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

None

CONTACT

Lori Droste, Councilmember District 8 981-7180

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

IN DEFENSE OF THE FAIR HOUSING ACT

A Resolution reaffirming Berkeley's commitment to a fair housing policy, and to promoting the values of equality and integration in housing by affirmatively furthering fair housing.

WHEREAS, Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ) and Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT) have introduced H.R. 482 and S. 103, proposed legislation intended to weaken the Fair Housing Act and interfere with its implementation and enforcement; and

WHEREAS, the proposed bills aim to prohibit diligent housing data collection tools that allow communities to affirmatively further fair housing and establish more equal and inclusive communities; and

WHEREAS, the Fair Housing Act was passed in 1968 with the goal of ending discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, or national origin in any and all housing matters in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Fair Housing Act has protected the rights of millions of vulnerable citizens since its enactment and led to landmark court victories for fair housing supporters across the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Housing and Urban Development and its Office for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO) have a mission to administer the Fair Housing Act and establish national policies that protect American citizens' right to housing of their choice, including the rule to affirmatively further fair housing; and

WHEREAS, affirmatively furthering fair housing means to address significant disparities in housing needs and in access to opportunity, replacing segregated living patterns with truly integrated and balanced living patterns, transforming racially and ethnically concentrated areas of poverty into areas of opportunity, and fostering and maintaining compliance with civil rights and fair housing laws; and

WHEREAS, the right to live in the area and housing of one's choice is fundamental to the free and equal order of American society and has an impact on the equality in the workplace and education that individuals and families can attain; and

WHEREAS, such fairness is the foundation of the American system and reflects traditional American values; and

WHEREAS, hindering the implementation of fair housing principles undermines the strength and vitality of America and its people; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that on [day month] the City of Berkeley reaffirms its commitment to the goals of the Fair Housing Act: the principles of desegregation, access to the housing of one's choice irrespective of race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, or national origin and equal protection under the law; and be it further

RESOLVED, the City of Berkeley opposes H.R. 482 and S. 103, and calls on Rep. Barbara Lee, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, and Sen. Kamala Harris to vote against these bills, and to exert influence on other representatives to oppose these bills; and be it further

RESOLVED, all persons who feel that they have been discriminated against in any housing or real estate purchase, conveyance or transaction because of race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, or national origin, will be assisted to seek equity under federal and state laws by filing a complaint with the Office of Regional Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; and be it further

RESOLVED, the City of Berkeley will support the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in all efforts to affirmatively further fair housing and collect data to assess the progress of fair housing initiatives and inclusiveness of its communities.

