

March 1, 2023

Chairman Sherrod Brown
Committee on Banking, Housing,
and Urban Affairs
United States Senate
534 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Tim Scott
Committee on Banking, Housing,
and Urban Affairs
United States Senate
534 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Brown and Ranking Member Scott:

The undersigned organizations write to express our support for the nominations of David Uejio and Solomon Greene to the positions of Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO) and Assistant Secretary for Policy Development & Research (PD&R), respectively, at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). David Uejio and Solomon Greene are both exceptionally qualified individuals nominated to positions that are integral to HUD's mission and central to ensuring our nation's housing market and economy can function in the most inclusive manner possible. As our nation's fair and affordable housing crisis remains unchanged, we share our strong support for David Uejio and Solomon Greene and urge the Senate to move them to a full floor vote immediately.

Our nation is grappling with a fair and affordable housing crisis during which families are forced to struggle to make rent or lack the income to put savings toward a downpayment for a home. Rising housing costs and the consequent increase in inflation are squeezing families out of stable, affordable housing options. [The average family spends 33.8% of their monthly budget on housing costs](#) and in the 40 largest metropolitan areas, [rents have risen by as much as 30%](#). [Today the White homeownership rate is 67% higher than the Black homeownership rate, 45% higher than the rate for Latinos, and 20% higher than the rate for the Asian community](#). These concerning statistics are made more severe by the generational impacts of discriminatory policies and practices that to this day undermine housing and economic opportunity for families of color. This is because, for centuries, thousands of public policies, starting with the [Head Rights System](#) through the [CARES Act of 2020](#), facilitated economic security for White families while simultaneously systematizing pervasive economic insecurity for Blacks and other people of color, their families, and communities.

The National Fair Housing Alliance's most recent [Fair Housing Trends Report](#) documented unprecedented level of discrimination, particularly for people with disabilities. In 2021, consumers filed a record number of housing discrimination complaints – the highest number since NFHA began tracking this data 25 years ago. Complaints increased by 8.7 percent over the previous year, mirroring an increase in reports of hate violence against Black, Latino, Asian, Native, and other communities of color. And the global COVID-19 pandemic exposed deep-seated unmet needs in our society, and our organizations know too well the disproportionate harms that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to have on people of color, women, families with children, LGBTQ+ individuals, and people with disabilities. Access to decent, safe, accessible,

and affordable housing is key to surviving and thriving during this ongoing crisis. In the last reporting year alone, NFHA's 2022 Fair Housing Trends Report documented the following rates of housing discrimination:

- A 29 percent increase in complaints of discriminatory harassment, including the highest number of harassment complaints since NFHA began collecting detailed harassment data in 2021, and concentrated most heavily among people with disabilities, women, and people of color;
- 54.6 percent of all reported complaints of housing discrimination based on disability status;
- 16.8 percent of all reported complaints of housing discrimination based on race; and
- 7.9 percent of all reported complaints of housing discrimination against families with children.

The United States' history of discrimination and financial exclusion forms the bedrock of inequality today, as neighborhoods of color that have experienced disinvestment are more likely to have poorly resourced schools and fewer amenities like healthcare facilities, grocery stores, green spaces, and bank branches. At the same time, communities of color are more likely to have hazardous and toxic waste plants and more polluted land, air, and water. Discrimination and segregation also lie at the root of the disparities we see related to the COVID-19 pandemic, during which [Black](#), [Latino](#), and [Native American](#) people were hospitalized for and dying from the coronavirus at 2 to 4 times the rate of Whites. Fair housing organizations throughout the country also have reported elevated violence and harassment against Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders, consistent with national trends.

HUD's Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO) and Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research (PD&R) are responsible for fully utilizing the tools our nation's civil rights statutes provide us to ensure fairness in the housing market. We believe that David Uejio and Solomon Greene understand how best to achieve equitable, accessible, and quality affordable housing in every neighborhood, and they are excellent leaders selected to manage this important work. We strongly urge the Senate to confirm them immediately.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

National Fair Housing Alliance
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
Center for Responsible Lending
National Community Reinvestment Coalition
Americans for Financial Reform Education Fund
National Low Income Housing Coalition
PolicyLink
Center for Disability Rights

Poverty & Race Research Action Council
 Unidos US
 National Housing Law Project
 Disability Rights Advocates
 National CAPACD - National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community
 Development

Local and State Organizations

Organization	City	State
Southwest Fair Housing Council	Tucson	AZ
CSA San Diego County	El Cajon	CA
Greater Napa Valley Fair Housing Center	Napa	CA
Civil Rights Institute of Inland Southern California	Riverside	CA
Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California	San Rafael	CA
Fair Housing Council of Orange County	Santa Ana	CA
Housing Equality Law Project (HELP)	South San Francisco	CA
Connecticut Fair Housing Center	Hartford	CT
Equal Rights Center	Washington	DC
HOND, INC.	Wilmington	DE
Fair Housing Center of the Greater Palm Beaches	Lantana	FL
Housing Opportunities Project for Excellence, Inc.	Miami	FL
Center for Community and Economic Development, Inc.	Tallahassee	FL
Metro Fair Housing Services, Inc.	Atlanta	GA
Savannah-Chatham County Fair Housing Council, Inc.	Savannah	GA
Intermountain Fair Housing Council, Inc.	Boise	ID
Open Communities	Evanston	IL
South Suburban Housing Center	Homewood	IL
HOPE Fair Housing Center	Wheaton	IL
Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana, Inc.	Indianapolis	IN
Louisiana Fair Housing Action Center	New Orleans	LA
Fair Housing Center of West Michigan	Grand Rapids	MI
Fair Housing Center of Southwest Michigan	Kalamazoo	MI
High Plains Fair Housing Center	Grand Forks	ND
Long Island Housing Services, Inc.	Bohemia	NY
Housing Opportunities Made Equal, Inc.	Buffalo	NY
Fair Housing Justice Center	Long Island City	NY
CNY Fair Housing, Inc.	Syracuse	NY
Westchester Residential Opportunities, Inc.	White Plains	NY
Housing Opportunities Made Equal of Greater Cincinnati	Cincinnati	OH

Housing Research & Advocacy Center dba Fair Housing Center for Rights & Research	Cleveland	OH
Miami Valley Fair Housing Center, Inc.	Dayton	OH
The Fair Housing Center	Toledo	OH
Fair Housing Rights Center in SEPA	Philadelphia	PA
Fair Housing Partnership of Greater Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	PA
Solo Por Hoy, Inc.	San Juan	PR
Greater Houston Fair Housing Center	Houston	TX
Fair Housing Council of Greater San Antonio	San Antonio	TX
Hampton Roads Community Action Program	Newport News	VA
Housing Opportunities Made Equal of Virginia	Richmond	VA
Fair Housing Center of Washington	Tacoma	WA

CC: Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer