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## **Resolution to Prohibit Housing Discrimination Based on Source of Income**

### **Submitted by**

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City: Santa Fe

County: Santa Fe

**Whereas**, housing assistance, including housing choice vouchers issued pursuant to Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937, or other government housing payments and credits have reduced homelessness, allowed recipients to live in less crowded conditions, and increased the academic performance of children; (1) (2) and

**Whereas**, many recipients of housing choice vouchers and people receiving other forms of government housing payments and credits face discrimination based solely on the means by which they will pay for such housing; (3) and

**Whereas**, very often people who face such discrimination have been unable to use their vouchers forcing them to become homeless, remain homeless, or continue to live in desperate situations; (4) and

**Whereas**, income derived from social security or any form of federal, state, or local public housing assistance, including a housing choice voucher issued pursuant to Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937, or any other form of government housing credit offers reliable payments to landlords. Only an irrational stigma or hidden racial and other biases cause it to be seen as inferior to income from a lawful profession, occupation, or job; (5) and

**Whereas**, many cities, counties, and states have enacted voucher discrimination laws that prohibit landlords from refusing to rent to voucher users solely based on their source of income. Studies have shown that these voucher non-discrimination laws are associated with substantial reductions in the share of landlords that refuse to accept vouchers; (6)

**Therefore, be it resolved that** the Democratic Party of New Mexico (DPNM) strongly urges the Legislature of the State of New Mexico enact a state-wide law to expand prohibitions against housing discrimination to include source of income, including income derived from social security or any form of federal, state, or local issued public housing assistance, including a housing choice voucher issued pursuant to Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937, or any other form of government housing assistance payment or credit.

**Be it further resolved**, that DPNM strongly urges the Legislature of the State of New Mexico to amend the Human Rights Act and Uniform Owner-Resident Relations Act to add source of income to the list of classes protected from housing discrimination along with race, color, sex, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin familial status, and disability.

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1. NYU Furman Center Report *The Use of Housing Choice Vouchers in New York City*, May 20th 2024
2. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, *Research shows Housing Vouchers reduce Hardship and Provide Platform for Long-Term Gains among Children*, updated Oct. 7, 2015 by Will Fischer
3. *Vox*, *Vouchers can help the poor find homes. But landlords often won't accept them.* Dec. 10, 2019 by Stephanie Wykstra
4. USA Today *Voucher program is supposed to help poor families find a home. Nearly half the time, it fails.* By Lucy Tompkins
5. *Time*, *A Mask for Racial Discrimination. How housing Voucher Programs Can Hurt the Families they're Designed to Help*, Feb. 20, 2020 by Abby Vesoulis
6. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, *Prohibiting Discrimination Against Renters using Housing Vouchers Improves Results*, updated Dec. 20, 2018 by Alison Bell Barbara Sard and Becky Koepnick