



NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release:**

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**#BanIncomeBiasNY Campaign Launches to End Source of Income Discrimination in New York State**

*Coalition pushes for new law before the end of the legislative session in June*

New York, NY – April 4, 2018 – A statewide coalition of advocates led by [Enterprise Community Partners](#), [ERASE Racism](#), the [Fair Housing Justice Center](#) and the [New York Housing Conference](#) kicked off Fair Housing Month today by launching [#BanIncomeBiasNY](#), a campaign to amend New York State human rights law to include a lawful source of income (SOI) provision that protects individuals using government assistance or other forms of non-wage income to pay their rent from housing discrimination.

More than 576,000 low-income New Yorkers use federal rental assistance to pay for housing. Without SOI legislation, landlords can legally refuse to accept their money. Some municipalities, such as New York City, Syracuse and Long Island, have laws banning income discrimination in housing, but they are not uniform and limited in scope.

“Source of income discrimination reinforces segregation, perpetuates generational poverty and limits opportunities for New Yorkers,” said **Judi Kende, vice president and New York market leader, Enterprise Community Partners**. “This is a civil rights violation; the legislature must act to protect hundreds of thousands of people across the state who use non-wage income to pay for housing.”

The lack of SOI protections impacts some of New York State’s most vulnerable populations, including the elderly, persons living with disabilities, domestic violence survivors, persons who are experiencing homelessness, families with children, ethnic and racial minorities and veterans. SOI discrimination drives poverty and segregation by restricting low-income families to certain areas, often with higher crime and underperforming schools. SOI discrimination is also often used as a proxy for illegal discrimination based on disability, familial status or race.

“Source of income discrimination sends an ugly message to many New Yorkers that they are unworthy to be considered for housing or unwelcome to live in certain communities,” said **Fred Freiberg, executive director, Fair Housing Justice Center**. “Households receiving rental subsidies or income from lawful sources other than employment should have equal access to any housing they can afford.”

[Assembly Bill 10077](#), introduced by Assemblyman Walter T. Mosley, intends to amend the State Human Rights Law to include source of income as a protected class, thereby prohibiting housing providers from

discriminating against individuals who use non-wage income or funds from federal, state or local governmental entities to pay for all or part of their housing. The Coalition will be holding a press conference and lobby day at the State Capitol on April 24 to encourage the passage of the bill by the end of the legislative session in June. Thus far, more than 40 coalition members from across the state have signed on in support of the legislation, including affordable and fair housing organizations, senior advocacy groups, homelessness advocacy groups and tenants' rights organizations.

"Too often, people in my district and around the state are turned away from apartments due to baseless income discrimination," said **Walter T. Mosley, New York State Assemblyman**. "Even with some local laws banning this, there are many people in this state who face the possibility of homelessness simply because landlords do not approve of where their income originates from. But public assistance should not prevent someone from living in an apartment they can afford. I know that this bill will improve the lives of families in my community and throughout our state."

"If we don't put a stop to source of income discrimination, many New Yorkers will be unfairly limited in their housing options. Segregated communities with disparate opportunities is not what I want for future generations," said **Elaine Gross, president, ERASE Racism**. "ERASE Racism is proud to stand with the Statewide Source of Income Coalition, fighting for laws that ensure equal access to housing for all New Yorkers."

"New York Housing Conference is proud to be part of this coalition to open up housing options for New Yorkers utilizing housing assistance or on fixed incomes who often face significant barriers in finding safe and decent rental housing," said **Rachel Fee, executive director, New York Housing Conference**.

For more information on source of income discrimination, click [here](#). To join the Statewide Source of Income Coalition, please sign up [here](#).

### **About the Statewide Source of Income Coalition**

The Statewide Source of Income Coalition, originally organized in 2016 by ERASE Racism, is a vast network of advocates that supports amending the New York State Human Rights Law and expanding the protected classes to include "Lawful Source of Income." Currently led by Enterprise Community Partners, the Coalition continues to ensure the housing choice of all New Yorkers. Follow the #BanIncomeBiasNY campaign on Twitter at [@banincomebiasny](#). If you are interested in joining the Statewide Source of Income Coalition, please email [banincomebiasny@gmail.com](mailto:banincomebiasny@gmail.com). For any additional questions or concerns, please contact Aliya Brown at 212.284.7214.

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