



**Remarks by Elaine Gross, President of ERASE Racism**

**At a Press Conference in Albany on Proposed New York State Legislation to**

**Advance ADUs**

**February 15, 2022**

Thank you. I'm Elaine Gross, President of ERASE Racism, and I'm pleased to participate in this press conference in support of legislation [proposed by Governor Kathy Hochul](#) to legalize accessory dwelling units (ADUs). ERASE Racism has for 20 years been championing an end to housing discrimination and furthering fair housing with the placement of affordable housing in ways that integrates rather than segregates communities – as well as an end to the segregation of schools and unequal education generated to a large degree by housing discrimination and segregation.

Legal ADUs are a solid step in the right direction to address New York's affordable housing crisis. They offer a variety of affordable housing units, including basement and garage apartments, thereby increasing available housing options while enabling homeowners to supplement their incomes.

As the proposed legislation evolves, however, it should also ensure that ADUs advance fair housing. Housing discrimination in New York is well documented, and ADUs must not replicate existing patterns of residential discrimination and segregation.

ADUs that are not used to house family members must be made available to the public, otherwise this housing will mimic existing patterns of housing segregation. Homeowners should be required to notify the public of opportunities to rent ADUs.

The legislation should clearly state that ADUs must abide by fair housing and tenant protection laws.

Any homeowners who receive assistance from State funding to create their ADUs should be required to maintain below-market rents to enhance affordability.

I'm pleased to see momentum building behind the legalization of ADUs, and I support and encourage that effort. Let's ensure that the ADUs provide fair as well as affordable housing. Thank you.