

PUBLIC HOUSING ACCESS BILL HB5574

REP. RAMIREZ

PROBLEM

Housing is a human right. Everyone deserves access to a safe, affordable, adequate housing but many people exiting prison do not currently have that opportunity. People who have experienced incarceration are often most vulnerable as they return home and attempt to find housing and employment opportunities and many are barred from public housing.

Under federal guidelines, Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires that local Public Housing Authorities ban people on the sex offender registry and people who have been convicted of manufacturing methamphetamines on public housing property.

SOLUTION

THE PUBLIC HOUSING ACCESS BILL requires that every public housing authority has a criminal background screening process that includes:

- ▶ No wait period after being released from incarceration
- ▶ A look back period of 6 months from the date of application
- ▶ Every person that falls within the look back period must have an opportunity to present their mitigating circumstances before denial due to criminal background
- ▶ Require that each Public Housing Authority keep records on the number of people who were in the criminal justice system and apply for public housing
- ▶ Limit on the offenses local PHAs are allowed to consider



FOR MORE INFORMATION

CARLTON MAYERS

Heartland Alliance
cmayers@heartlandalliance.org
(802) 355-7915

MATTHEW SMITH

Cabrini Green Legal Aid
matthewsmith@cglanet.org
(802) 922-1183

LINDSEY HAMMOND

Community Renewal Society
lhammond@communityrenewalsociety.org
(312) 687-8578

NIYA KELLY

Chicago Coalition for the Homeless
niya@chicagohomeless.org
(312) 641-4140

