

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 397

Recognizing the challenges, achievements, and significant contributions of women and minorities in the fields of housing, housing finance, and community development.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 22, 2019

Mr. CLAY (for himself and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the challenges, achievements, and significant contributions of women and minorities in the fields of housing, housing finance, and community development.

Whereas President Lyndon Baines Johnson signed the Fair Housing Act into law in 1968 which prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, or financing of housing based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status, and handicap to counter pervasive, systemic, and debilitating franchised racism;

Whereas public and private investment and the economic health and stability of communities are influenced by housing opportunity;

Whereas women and minorities have been historically excluded in housing;

Whereas women and minorities have been historically under-represented in housing;

Whereas months after Congress passed a landmark law directing the Federal Government to dismantle segregation in the Nation's housing, President Nixon's Secretary of Housing and Urban Development George Romney began working to implement a plan to use the law to its fullest effect to reverse past discrimination and institute fair housing in a low-key manner;

Whereas home ownership and stable housing amongst women and minorities bring significant economic benefits to communities;

Whereas more women are living independently or serving as heads of households today than when the Fair Housing Act became law, with women compromising nearly 20 percent of home buyers today;

Whereas evidence from the International Monetary Fund suggests that adding women to the labor market will increase overall productivity and stimulate wage growth for both women and men;

Whereas a recent study found that increased diversity of leadership teams in business resulted in 19 percent higher revenue due to innovation, a substantial factor in tech companies, startups, and industries of the future;

Whereas historic and systemic racial barriers to wealth building and the implication this has had for home ownership left many in cities across America vulnerable to displacement and economic isolation; and

Whereas lack of housing opportunity contributes to the continued racial wealth gap: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) recognizes the significant contributions and
3 importance of representation of women and minorities
4 in housing;

5 (2) encourages increased participation of
6 women and minorities in housing and related fields;
7 and

8 (3) will look to promote diversity, policies, and
9 robust investment in programs which serve to countermand historic segregation perpetrated against
10 women and minorities.
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