

The Honorable Senator Antonio Hayes  
James Senate Office Building, Room 222  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Reference: Support for Senate Bill 678 (SB678)

Dear Senator Hayes,

Please accept this letter of support for the approval of SB678 which proposes to prohibit the name of the home buyer on the residential contract of sale in the State of Maryland during the negotiation period.

A name can reveal information about a person including race, ethnicity, religion or national origin.

A name can also be used to uncover more information about that person including, *but not limited to*; gender, sexual orientation, familial status, handicap and political affiliation.

- Pursuant to State Government Article, §20-702, Annotated Code of Maryland, it is the policy of the State of Maryland to provide for fair housing throughout the State, to all its citizens, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, familial status, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or source of income.
- Pursuant to the Code of Maryland, 09.11.02.02 A, Relations to Client, it is the policy of the State of Maryland to direct real estate licensees to protect and promote the interests of the client which is of absolute fidelity to the client's interest and is primary.
- Pursuant to the National Association of Realtors Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice, 1.9, it is the obligation of Realtors to preserve confidential information about a client.

Removing the name of the home buyer from the residential contract of sale during the negotiation period supports the State of Maryland policies, the protection of buyer rights under the Law and the Realtor Code of Ethics.

SB678 recognizes the need for home buyer privacy rights during negotiation and will serve to protect the selling public from making discriminatory decisions in housing, implicit or otherwise, based on factors which may be revealed in either the name of the home buyer, alone, or factors which can be researched when the name of the home buyer is provided.

Sincerely

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