

HUD cont'd from pg 7

already attracted 24 co-sponsors from 14 states. Half of the lawmakers' support for the repeal comes from only four states: California, Florida, Tennessee and Texas. A companion bill was also introduced in the Senate with one co-sponsor.

Rep. Paul Gosar of Arizona, the bill lead sponsor in the lower chamber, shared in a prepared statement why he feels so strongly about appealing the rule:

"The AFFH rule marks President Obama's most aggressive attempt yet

for HUD projects, they should actively work to ensure that all taxpayers can enjoy the benefits without the prospect of unlawful discrimination. Indeed, the rule provides local jurisdictions with broad discretion to decide which issues to prioritize and address."

"By attacking the AFFH rule, Rep. Gosar and other bill sponsors are seeking to re-codify housing discrimination into U.S. law," noted Maya Rockey-moore, President and CEO of Global Policy Solutions, a social change strategy firm. "By disallowing the collection of federal data by place, race and other key demographics, the bill's sponsors seek to prevent local governments

“A key Obama regulation, known as ‘Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing,’ is again under assault on Capitol Hill

to force his utopian ideology on American communities disguised under the banner of ‘fairness’. This overreaching mandate is an attempt to extort communities into giving up local zoning decisions and reengineer the makeup of our neighborhoods.”

For civil rights, housing and consumer advocates, the unique Black American experience was deliberately engineered—but from a different perspective: to deny housing opportunity, voting rights, economic mobility and even quality employment or education.

"AFFH is central to fulfilling the purposes of the Fair Housing Act," said Wade Henderson, President and CEO on the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights. "It's based on a simple and perfectly fair premise: if a city or locality seeks taxpayer funding

from making their communities the best places to live by limiting their ability to use critical data and information to inform their community planning decisions."

Until the 1968 Fair Housing Act, local zoning laws across the country supported segregation along with redlining Black communities to exclude borrowers from mortgage and home improvement loans along with a litany of bad real estate practices that denied opportunities to build family wealth. Omitting Black neighborhoods from multiple listing services, door-to-door block-busting that attempted to create a sense of fear from lost property values due to integration, and restricted covenants that explicitly excluded many minorities from ever buying property in designated areas — were

Rental Affordability is Worst in Minority Neighborhoods



PHOTO BY JERRY FOSTER

Zillow

SEATTLE — Monthly rent is a bigger financial burden for people living in predominantly Black or Hispanic neighborhoods than it is in white neighborhoods, according to a new Zillow analysis of race and housing affordability. Nationally, renters in predominantly black neighborhoods can expect to spend 43.7 percent of their income on rent, and renters in Hispanic communities can expect to spend 48.1 percent of their income on rent.

In White neighborhoods, renters can expect to spend 30.7 percent of their income on rent, essentially in line with the standard rule of spend-

ing about 30 percent of income on housing.

In markets that offer the best opportunities for social mobility, paying the rent in minority communities is an even bigger financial burden, mainly due to significantly lower incomes in these communities. In San Francisco, for example, rent in predominantly black neighborhoods requires nearly three-quarters of the median income there. In largely Hispanic neighborhoods, renters can expect to spend 62.5 percent of their income on monthly rent.

When housing costs consume such a significant share of income, rent-

See RENT on page 10

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