

Dear House Committee on General and Housing and Committee Assistant,

I am writing to ask you to vote in favor of H.169 and advance it to the full House forthwith.

Please ask the Committee Assistant to add this to the record. Thanks.

It is very important that we support our immigrant neighbors. There are 5000 of them and they do all kinds of work, not just on dairy farms.

They are statistically younger and with our aging population they can fill jobs that some of us can't.

It is difficult enough in Vermont to find housing but some landlords requiring a Social Security number during applications makes it impossible for those without citizenship to find housing.

This bill would have landlords accept any form of government issued identification. I am grateful that in Vermont, undocumented individuals can get drivers' licenses, which I think would qualify.

The bill also adds citizenship and immigration status to the list of discrimination prohibitions in any kind of housing or public accommodations.

Illinois last year passed the The Illinois Human Rights Act

[775 ILCS 5/ Illinois Human Rights Act.](#)

That prohibits housing providers from using a person's "immigration status" to discriminate against them when renting an apartment, buying a home, applying for a mortgage, or receiving housing-related services. The Act also prohibits real estate brokers and appraisers from discriminating against a person based on their "immigration status."

I don't see anything in H.169 about mortgages but addressing rentals is a good start.

Also, Minnesota's SF 3492, which was approved by the governor last year, says that

"A landlord must not deny a rental application solely because the prospective tenant provided an individual taxpayer identification number."

This is another important feature of H.169.

Please vote to advance this bill to the full House.

Thank you.

Ann Schroeder
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