



**TX HB 1257 Assigned to House Urban Affairs Committee:**

**Contact Your State Representative and Members of the Urban Affairs Committee to Request a Hearing!**

**HB 1257 Needs a Hearing to Move Forward and Provide Local Control for Local Housing Problems**

Kudos to State Representative Rosenthal for understanding the housing choice voucher discrimination face and sponsoring HB 1257. Passage of HB 1257 would get rid of a state law that keeps cities and counties from passing ordinances that fully address housing voucher discrimination. His bill deserves and needs a hearing and a vote by the Urban Affairs Committee before it can be considered by the full House. Make your voice heard and request a hearing.

Contact your State Representative to request SUPPORT for the bill and that the bill get a hearing. Don't let the apartment industry with their professional lobbyists continue to run to the Capitol to block cities and counties from being able to decide if and how they can address the rampant discrimination that voucher holders face when looking for housing. Voucher discrimination ordinances have and continue to be used by cities all over the country. Texas is embarrassingly one of the few states that has tried forbidding local government from doing their jobs—addressing local affordable housing crises.

**TAKE ACTION TODAY!**

Contact your State Representative today and urge them to support HB 1257 and request a hearing. To find out who your State Representative is:

- Go to <https://wrm.capitol.texas.gov/home> and type your home address.
- Click on the name of the "Texas House" representative to see his or her telephone number and email address.
- Call and tell them that (1) "I live in your district and" (2) "I am calling to ask that the representative support HB 1257 and request a hearing on the bill, which is in the Urban Affairs Committee".

Then, call members of the Urban Affairs Committee and urge them also to hold a hearing on the bill. Their telephone numbers are:

Rep. Angie Chen Button, Committee Chair, (512) 463-0486

Rep. Matt Shaheed, Committee Vice-Chair, (512) 463-0594

Rep. Jessica Gonzalez, (512) 463-0408

Rep. Vikki Goodwin, (512) 463-0408

Rep. Eric Johnson, (512) 463-0586

Rep. Mayes Middleton, (512) 463-0502

Rep. Christina Morales, (512) 463-0732

Rep. Jared Patterson, (512) 463-0694

Rep. Valoree Swanson, (512) 463-0572

Calling works best. But if you can't call, you can send them your comments in writing though their individual webpages. Search a state representative's page by going here: <https://capitol.texas.gov/Members/Members.aspx?Chamber=H>.

**Talking Points**

Texas House Bill 1257 seeks to repeal a preemptive law passed by the state in 2015. The 2015 preemptive law sought to block cities and counties from passing ordinances that would protect housing choice voucher holders from landlord discrimination, ordinances that are used in several locations throughout the country. Austin and Dallas are examples of cities in Texas who have looked at these types of protections for low-income renters. It is no surprise that landlords have expressed concerns about how the voucher program is administered, but these issues are best dealt with at the local level. At the end of the day it is our local cities and counties who are left to deal day-to-day with our affordable housing crisis. HB 1257 would allow cities and counties, who so choose, to address concerns by both the landlord community and community of low-income renters who are having problems finding decent housing with their vouchers.

**Thank you! Lifting Your Voice Today is the Tide Needed to Help Lift Us All**