

STATE OF MICHIGAN



GRETCHEN WHITMER, Governor

## MICHIGAN CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

# RESOLUTION

## RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 4878 – MICHIGAN FAIR CHANCE ACCESS TO HOUSING ACT

**WHEREAS** the Michigan Civil Rights Commission is a public body established under the power “to investigate alleged discrimination against any person because of religion, race, color or national origin in the enjoyment of the civil rights guaranteed by law and by [the] constitution, and to secure the equal protection of such civil rights without such discrimination”; and

**WHEREAS** the Michigan Elliott Larsen Civil Right Act prohibits certain discrimination based on criminal history in employment; and

**WHEREAS** there is a well-documented practice of landlords taking adverse actions against prospective renters with criminal history backgrounds, irrespective of the nature of the criminal background; and

**WHEREAS** there is a disproportionate number of people of color, and men of color in particular, who are subject to the criminal justice system in Michigan; and

**WHEREAS** the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has noted extensive ethnic and racial disparities in the U.S. criminal justice system and its disproportionate impact on persons of color related to housing restrictions; and

**WHEREAS** the ability to secure housing significantly impacts the ability of a person to secure employment and an education, achieve health and wellbeing, avoid food insecurity and maintain family stability; and

**WHEREAS** the Michigan Fair Chance Access to Housing Act, House Bill 4878, is a measure that generally prohibits landlords from using criminal records when evaluating the rental application at any stage in the application process, except as provided by the Michigan Fair Chance Access to Housing Act or under relevant state or federal law; and

**WHEREAS** the Michigan Civil Rights Commission supports all responsible legislative, executive and judicial efforts to address discrimination against persons with criminal records; and

**WHEREAS** the Michigan Civil Rights Commission, in observation of and in deference to its constitutional mandate, embraces all legislative attempts to balance the protection and facilitation of the civil rights of Michigan citizens with criminal records, while giving due regard for the safety and welfare of citizens and the public interest; and

**THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED** that the Michigan Civil Rights Commission hereby supports and recommends passage of any reasonable and responsible legislation prohibiting discrimination against persons with criminal records, and commends the Michigan legislature to the continued vigilant protection, facilitation, and expansion of civil rights for the citizens of Michigan; and

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** this resolution be provided to the Sponsors of the bill, Speaker of the House, Speaker Pro Tempore, Majority and Minority Leaders of the Michigan House of Representatives, Senate President, President Pro Tempore, Majority and Minority Leaders of the Michigan Senate, and Governor Gretchen Whitmer.



Passed on Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of July 2024, by the  
**MICHIGAN CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION**

Commissioner Gloria E. Lara, Chair  
Commissioner Luke Londo, Secretary  
Commissioner Zenna Faraj Elhasan  
Commissioner Regina Gasco

Commissioner David Worthams, Vice-Chair  
Commissioner Portia Roberson  
Commissioner Rosann Barker  
Commissioner Richard J. Corriveau