

# LET WASHINGTON, DC, PICK YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

## QUICK STATS

- ✗ **CONFERENCE:** Regulation
- ✗ **TEAM:** Department of Housing and Urban Development
- **FUMBLE:** Federal planning for local communities
- **HOW TO RECOVER THE BALL:** Allow families to decide where to raise their children

People in Washington, DC, already pick Americans' street signs, storm drains, and mortgages, so why not let DC choose people's neighbors? HUD put forth the "Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing" regulation in August 2015 in order to increase diversity in wealthy American neighborhoods and reduce housing discrimination.<sup>356</sup> The 377-page rule will require communities to develop plans to address segregation and submit their plans to HUD. Specific federal funding will be contingent on the adequacy of a community's plan, which is determined by HUD.

Discrimination in neighborhoods, either in the ownership or rental market, is unacceptable. Under the Fair Housing Act, HUD has authority to address and fight it. HUD should and does use that authority because discrimination based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, or disability is illegal.<sup>357</sup> But new regulations that make a federal housing agency the ultimate arbiter of neighborhood design and tie federal funding to specific plans directly contradict what many communities want for the future. With unique and valuable histories,

local communities and states understand the needs of their residents better than the federal government.<sup>358</sup> Sweeping federal regulations inhibit flexibility that states say they need to end housing discrimination.

## RECOVERY

In addition to forcing misguided federal central planning on American towns and cities, HUD estimates the rule will cost 1,250 local governments a total of \$25 million in compliance costs each year.<sup>359</sup> If left unchecked, the regulation will grant the federal government colossal power over states and localities. The Local Zoning and Property Rights Protection Act, introduced by Rep. Paul Gosar (AZ), would repeal the rule and require HUD to consult with state and local public housing officials to develop recommendations to further the Fair Housing Act's original purpose of ending housing discrimination.<sup>360</sup> Families know best where they want to raise their children. This is not a decision the federal government should attempt to make.

*[For more information, please visit:](#)*

[Federal Register: Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing](#)

[The Hill: Obama making bid to diversify wealthy neighborhoods](#)

[H.R. 1995 - Local Zoning and Property Rights Protection Act of 2015](#)

[Rasmussen Reports: Voters Say No to Government Role in Neighborhood Diversity](#)