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Source of Income Discrimination Policy Statement

All Home has long supported the passage of a statewide ban on discrimination by landlords based on source of income, reflected again in our 2017 State Legislative Agenda. We will continue to work with our partners during the upcoming legislative session to pass such a bill. In a community facing a homelessness crisis, we cannot allow this discrimination to persist.

Banning source of income discrimination improves access to housing by preventing landlords from denying tenancy based solely on the grounds that a tenant relies on a subsidy or unearned income (such as rental subsidies or state or federal income supports) to pay all or a portion of their rent. Stable and affordable housing is the platform for families and individuals to thrive in a community.

Using subsidies in the private rental market is a critical component to making homelessness rare, brief and one-time. Evicting, or not renting, based on their income source has a profound impact on the lives of extremely vulnerable people, as a housing voucher is the only thing that stands between a family and homelessness. For example, families with Section 8 vouchers living in multiple properties in Renton were given eviction notices; in one building, twenty-two of the twenty-three families are families of color, including small children.

The cities of Seattle, Kirkland, Bellevue and Redmond along with King County currently ban source of income discrimination and several other cities are considering adopting similar laws. All Home encourages all cities in King County to join these jurisdictions to protect renters with housing subsidies or unearned income from being evicted or screened out of housing because of their source of income.