



## ETOWAH HOUSING AUTHORITY

400 SUNSET DRIVE  
ETOWAH TENNESSEE 37331



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The Regulations Division  
Office of General Counsel  
Department of Housing & Urban Development  
451 7th Street, S. W., Room 10276  
Washington, DC 20410-0500  
Reference: Docket No. FR 5359-P-01  
Equal Access to Housing in HUD Programs-Regardless of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity

In reviewing the rule, you stated HUD has a unique charge as the Nation's Housing Agency, to promote the Federal goal of providing decent, safe, and secure living environment for all. I truly believe you will be endangering this goal and causing harm to the Housing Communities in many ways with the proposed changes in this rule.

I strongly disagree with the changing of the definition of Family! Your definition basically says a group of persons who choose to live together "regardless of marital status or sexual orientation". Our definition currently states that a family is a group of people related by blood, marriage, or operation of law, who choose to live together. I believe this is the definition of a family.

If you want to increase program abuse then change the definition of a family. We will have no control of the definition, which will cause unbelievable hardships on Housing and families already living here. Also it will be impossible determining who is on the lease, and the family composition and family income. They could also have the possibility of this changing on a weekly basis, therefore it is going to be impossible to verify income properly.

If you choose to name a group of people such as the Lesbian, Gays, Bisexual, and Transgender(LGBT), you will be grouping together these with the Families we have now, who have totally different life styles and moral choices, which I don't feel will be able to live in the same development. You will be inviting groups with a person life style such as drug users and dealer, gang members, prostitutes, cults and murderers.

Changing the definition of Family I believe will take away the stability of the Families that are now living in Public Housing. I believe we will have more drugs and drug dealing in Public Housing which will cause more temporary tenants. It will invite more non-working families which will cause more subsidies. The working families will move out and leave the non-working and I wouldn't blame them. We will lose the economic mix that we have, which you have required. It will cause a life style where children will be emotionally and possibly physically abused and neglected. Which even one child is too much! With no requirements to be called a "Family", the head or co-head will be able to change on a weekly basis and you will be taking away the security and stability which will be very emotionally damaging. This can happen in a very short period of time. You will be taking away the Housing Authority's control in determining if a tenant is suitable and if their behavior would have an effect on other residents.

The proposed change in this definition I feel will not work in Public Housing. It will be a disaster! If you were here day by day and running an Authority you would understand where I am coming from. Please don't take away what little control we still have in monitoring our applicants and residents.  
Feel free to contact me here at the office if you would like to speak to me in person. Your help and consideration will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely;

Carolyn Johnson, Executive Director