



**June 25, 2015**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Gabby Brown  
202-898-1661 ext. 119  
[gbrown@nationalfairhousing.org](mailto:gbrown@nationalfairhousing.org)

**National Fair Housing Alliance Applauds Supreme Court's  
Decision to Uphold Key Fair Housing Protection**

*Decision Keeps Disparate Impact in Place to Guard against Discrimination*

WASHINGTON, DC – Shanna L. Smith, President and CEO of the National Fair Housing Alliance, issued the following statement applauding the Supreme Court's decision to uphold the use of disparate impact claims under the Fair Housing Act

We are very pleased that the Supreme Court sided with 40 years of legal precedent by holding that the Fair Housing Act allows for disparate impact discrimination claims.

Justice Anthony Kennedy and the Supreme Court majority summed it up perfectly when they said, "Much progress remains to be made in our Nation's continuing struggle against racial isolation," and concluded "The Court acknowledges the Fair Housing Act's continuing role in moving the Nation toward a more integrated society."

Disparate impact is an important protection for all of us. Today, families can feel more comfortable knowing that their right to housing will not be restricted because they have children, women who experience domestic violence can breathe easier knowing that they will not suffer eviction just because they suffered abuse, and communities of color can live with the security of knowing that the predatory lending practices that dumped millions of subprime loans into their neighborhoods will not be allowed. Neighborhoods still trying to recover from the financial crisis can have hope because disparate impact is an important tool in addressing unfair practices that contribute to economic and wealth disparities.

Where we live makes such an important difference in the opportunities that are available to us throughout our lives. Every one of us should be able to make the decision about where we want to live free from illegal discrimination. This is what the Fair Housing Act is all about – making sure everyone has a fair shot.

The Supreme Court made the right decision today. It is clear from the legislative and Congressional record that Congress intended to provide this important right to the people of this nation. The authors of the Fair Housing Act, the late Senator Edward Brooke and former Vice President Walter Mondale, underscored Congress' intent to include disparate impact when they, along with 21 other Congressional leaders, submitted an [amicus brief](#) to the Court in December, 2014. In their brief, Members of Congress explained that not only did Congress fully intend for the Act to address disparate impact discrimination, but that having this protection is critically important to achieving the law's full potential.

---

**National Fair Housing Alliance:** Founded in 1988, the National Fair Housing Alliance is a consortium of more than 220 private, non-profit fair housing organizations, state and local civil rights agencies, and individuals from throughout the United States. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., the National Fair Housing Alliance, through comprehensive education, advocacy and enforcement programs, provides equal access to apartments, houses, mortgage loans and insurance policies for all residents of the nation.