



January 17, 2024

The Coalition for the Homeless and the Homeless & Housing Coalition of Kentucky are firmly opposed to [House Bill 18](#) and [Senate Bill 25](#), which would prohibit local governments from preventing discrimination against people using a particular source of income: money from a federal housing assistance program. **These bills would unfairly limit the opportunity for tens of thousands of Kentuckians to secure rental housing throughout the state of Kentucky.**

Unfortunately, many of the 33,000 Kentuckians with housing choice vouchers have already faced source of income discrimination, being told that landlords “do not accept Section 8 vouchers.” **Source of income discrimination limits the housing choices of veterans, low-income families, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups, and contributes to racial and economic segregation.** For those reasons, source of income discrimination was outlawed in Louisville after March 2021, when the Louisville Metro Council prohibited such discrimination in a bipartisan, unanimous vote: 24 of the 26 Councilmembers voted for the ordinance; one voted present and one abstained. Source of income discrimination is now outlawed in 20 states and nearly 100 local jurisdictions of all political ideologies, a number which has grown rapidly in recent years. The American Bar Association adopted a resolution urging all governments to enact legislation prohibiting discrimination in housing on the basis of lawful source of income. **Prohibiting local governments in Kentucky from protecting people from discrimination in their jurisdictions would move Kentucky in the wrong direction.**

Since 2021, there have been no attempts to weaken or abandon the Louisville ordinance and very few complaints about it at all. Landlords in Louisville retain significant rights when renting to people with housing choice vouchers. They can use their regular (lawful) screening criteria and charge security deposits and regular rents. Landlords also consistently find that federal housing assistance payments are reliable and recession-proof.

House Bill 18 and Senate Bill 25 violate bedrock principles of local control, put Kentucky on a path opposite the rest of the country, and do not fix any existing problems. **We urge the House and Senate to vote no on these harmful bills, and for Kentuckians to raise their voices by calling the Legislative Message Line today at 1-800-372-7181.**