



Tomiquia Moss
tmoss@allhomeca.org

April 7, 2021

Assemblymember Mark Stone
Chair, California Assembly Judiciary Committee
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249

RE: AB 1466 (McCarty) SUPPORT

Dear Chairperson Mark Stone:

I write to express All Home's strong support for AB 1466 (McCarty), which would take proactive steps to remove historically racist language from housing documents once and for all. By establishing a clear process for eliminating racist language from housing documents, AB 1466 advances racial equity and begins to redress the Jim Crow-era practices that have harmed non-White Californians and limited their housing and wealth-building opportunities.

All Home is a Bay Area organization that advances regional solutions that will disrupt the cycle of poverty and homelessness, redress the disparities in outcomes as a result of race, and create more opportunity for economic mobility for extremely low-income (ELI) individuals and families within the Bay Area. AB 1466 aligns closely with this mission.

Racially restrictive covenants-- private agreements barring non-whites from occupying or owning property - were a key element of the segregationist policies in the early twentieth-century United States. Homeowners and builders in as early the 1890s in California created segregated neighborhoods by including language both in individual home deeds and in pacts that prohibited future resales to different communities of color.

While covenants were contracts between private parties, they became an increasingly important tool used by all levels of government to segregate neighborhoods. In 1948, under the two Supreme Court cases *Shelley v. Kraemer* and *Hurd v. Hodge*, racially restrictive covenants were found unconstitutional. However, to this day, unenforceable language in these covenants remains in housing documents due to the difficulty in modifying a property's chain of title. Numerous cases have been reported of buyers stumbling upon racist language in deeds and other housing documents that are sent prior to the transfer of property. While the exact number of properties which contain racially restrictive covenants remains unknown, evidence abounds of their use in neighborhoods up and down the state.

AB 1466 would create a clear process to redact this racist language from housing documents when property changes hands. The removal of racist language from covenants is not the silver bullet to eradicating racism within our communities, and removing this language does not take away the compounding and multi-generational effects of segregation. However, words matter in life and by making it clear that in California we will not abide racist language in housing documents, we can take an important step to acknowledge and address the impacts of systemic racism and outright prejudice that still affect communities of color today.

Therefore, we stand in strong support of AB 1466.

Sincerely,

Tomiquia Moss

Tomiquia Moss
Founder & CEO, All Home

cc: Assemblymember Kevin McCarty, Rob Bonta, and David Chiu