

Stop Ohio HB 408!

Ohio HB 408 proposes to change the board structure of the Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA), increasing the Board from 5 appointees to 7. A suburban township and a suburban city would appoint the new CMHA Board members and specifically exclude the new appointees from residing in Cincinnati.

This bill is problematic for several reasons:

- It gives control of the housing authority to the suburban jurisdictions, even though 90% of the public housing in Hamilton County is inside the City of Cincinnati.
- It applies only to the Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority. Why should a different Board structure be needed in Hamilton County than PHAs in the rest of the state?
- When the CMHA Board was recently controlled by individuals who sought only to protect their neighborhoods from subsidized housing, the result was five findings of racial discrimination by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- Despite proponents' claims, Cincinnati does not control the Housing Authority. Of the five Board members, the City appoints two, one of whom must be a resident of public housing. The current Chair of the CMHA Board, who lives in Cincinnati, was appointed by the County Commission. The City has appointed people who live in suburban jurisdictions. The criteria for Board membership should be a commitment to the mission of providing affordable housing - not whether you represent a jurisdiction that needs "protection" from subsidized housing.
- The bill sets a bad precedent for other PHAs statewide that could see efforts to challenge their board structure and mission of providing safe, decent and affordable housing.

Sponsor testimony for HB 408 was heard Tuesday, January 24 in the House Committee on Financial Institutions, Housing and Urban Development. Please contact the members of this Committee immediately to express your opposition to this bill by clicking [here](#)

Further, please contact your own State Representative and ask them to help stop this legislation. The Ohio House of Representatives Member Directory is [here](#)