

S.226 An act relating to expanding access to safe and affordable housing
House General, Housing, & Military Affairs

We write in support of S.226 as amended and passed by the Senate on March 31, 2022.

We ask that the House General, Housing and Military Affairs Committee consider the following language, originally proposed by Sen. Ram Hinsdale:

Exclusionary zoning

In order to address the inequities of exclusionary zoning and covenant practices, including single-family-only zoning districts, the Department of Housing and Community Development shall convene municipal and regional land use experts to develop recommendations on ways State, regional and local land use officials can:

- 1) identify a method to determine if rules or municipal bylaws have an exclusionary effect on affordable, mixed-income, transitional and emergency, and middle-income housing consistent with the state's smart growth principles,
- 2) ensure the equal treatment of residential uses or residential housing types,
- 3) promote socio-economically diverse and integrated neighborhoods and communities throughout the State of Vermont, and
- 4) establish a remedy to overcome exclusionary practices.

Should the Committee seek to hear testimony on this amendment, we can help the Committee identify people with relevant experience.

Thank you for all of your work on this important bill.

Sincerely,

Kara Casey, Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
Jess Graff, Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity
Kim Anetsberger, Lamoille Community House
Connie Anderson, Northeast Kingdom Youth Services
Ramsey Papp, Capstone Community Action
Sophie Pickens, John Graham Housing & Services