



MEDIA ADVISORY
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North Dakota Advisory Committee to U. S. Commission on Civil Rights Releases Report on Fair Housing in North Dakota

Today, the North Dakota Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights released its [report](#) on fair housing in the state. The Advisory Committee held a series of public briefings in 2020 and invited government officials, advocates, and scholars to provide testimony about fair housing issues in the state. The report identifies housing concerns from that testimony and provides findings and recommendations, including that:

The North Dakota legislature set aside funds to incentivize the University of North Dakota's School of Law to enhance their civil rights and fair housing curriculum. This will help develop civil rights attorneys that might increase damages to plaintiffs who bring fair housing complaints.

The state should increase investment in affordable and accessible housing that is integrated with the general North Dakota community to provide equal opportunity for refugees, immigrants, and people with disabilities.

More funding should be made available to nonprofit organizations to help individuals transition from the incarceration facility to transitional housing to provide support, training, and adequate services to these individuals as they attempt to procure permanent housing.

Michelle Rydz, chair of the Advisory Committee, noted that "access to fair housing determines where you live which in turn determines your access to healthcare, education, employment, and transportation. Home is the foundation for everything in our lives and having access to stable, safe, and accessible housing is how we keep our communities and economy strong."

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The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, established by the Civil Rights Act of 1957, is the only independent, bipartisan agency charged with advising the President and Congress on civil rights and reporting annually on federal civil rights enforcement. Our 56 state and territory Advisory Committees offer a broad perspective on civil rights concerns at state and local levels. The Commission: in our 7th decade, a continuing legacy of influence in civil rights. For information about the Commission, please visit <http://www.usccr.gov> and follow us on Twitter and Facebook.