



# National Association of Real Estate Brokers, Inc.

9831 Greenbelt Road - Suite 309 | Lanham, MD 20706

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December 20, 2019

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
New York State Governor  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

The National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NAREB) strongly encourages you and the New York State (NYS) Legislature to pass housing laws and penalties against housing discrimination in NYS. Discriminatory practices, sadly, continue and bad actors are still with us. But, so is NAREB's watchfulness. Advocacy efforts, legislative remedies, or legal challenges are employed where necessary to stomp down bias wherever it exists. We would like to recommend the following changes:

1. Require annual fair housing training for all licensed agents in NYS
2. Doubling of fines: Currently first offense is \$16,000; Recommend that fines start at \$32,000.
3. Make the violation a criminal misdemeanor charge
4. Make provisions for suspension or revocation of real estate license

We believe that mandatory annual training on fair housing practices should be included as a requirement of licensing and continued on an annual basis. We also agree, and will advocate for, stiffer penalties for real estate agents found perpetrating illegal discriminatory practices.

Rampant discriminatory practices like those uncovered in Long Island, NY are not uncommon nor isolated to just those communities. There is still work that needs to be done and we intend to remain vigilant by calling out bias when we see it. At the same time, we stand ready to work with other champions for justice, fairness and equality to eradicate biased behaviors and practices. The National Association of Real Estate Brokers is available to meet with you and other leaders of the NYS government to help develop policies and initiatives to eliminate discrimination in real estate in New York State. We are also available to speak at any public hearings. Attached for your review is a summary of NAREB's 2019 *State of Housing in Black America* (SHIBA). The full document is available on NAREB's website at [www.nareb.com](http://www.nareb.com).

Sincerely,

*Donnell Williams*

Donnell Williams  
National President

*Antoine M. Thompson*

Antoine M. Thompson  
National Executive Director

cc: Honorable Carl Heastie, Speaker, NYS Assembly  
Honorable Letitia James, NYS Attorney General  
Honorable James Sanders, Jr., Chair, Committee on Banks  
Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousin, NYS Senate, Majority Leader  
Honorable Steven Cymbrowitz, Assemblyman, Chair Housing Committee  
Honorable Brian Kavanagh, NYS Senate, Chair Housing Committee  
Honorable James Koufis, Chair, Committee on Investigations and Government Operations  
Honorable Thomas J. Abanati, Chair, Committee on Oversight, Analysis & Investigations  
Mr. Marc Morial, President and CEO, National Urban League  
Ms. Lisa Rice, President and CEO, National Fair Housing Alliance  
Ms. Hazel Dukes, President, NAACP of NYS Conference  
Mr. Derrick Johnson, President and CEO, NAACP