



November 19, 2018

Governor Bruce Rauner
c/o Sean McCarthy, Policy Advisor for Economic Development
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Governor Rauner,

I am writing today to respectfully request your signature to House Bill 5542, Mortgage License-Reporting Act, which has sponsors from both parties and, as of November 14th, has passed both the Senate and the House unanimously.

Since 1976, the Illinois Habitat for Humanity affiliates have built 1,870 new homes, which were built with partner families' sweat equity and then sold to them with an affordable mortgage originated by the Habitat affiliate. HB 5542 grants relief to bona fide non-profits in Illinois from the Federal SAFE Mortgage Licensing Act of 2008 which came about during the financial crisis to address mortgage abuses by for-profit entities. Exemptions to bona-fide non-profit organizations to this Secure and Fair Enforcement for Mortgage Licensing Act of 2008 ("SAFE Act") have been granted in 37 other states. With this exemption, the Illinois Habitat affiliates will be able to continue to provide mortgages under the regulatory requirements of the Fair Housing Act and the Truth in Lending Act.

The passage of a SAFE Act exemption in Illinois is of vital importance to nearly all of the 47 Habitat for Humanity affiliates in Illinois (and Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago, Inc.) to continue to serve some of the state's most needy families. Only a few of the largest Habitat Affiliates in Illinois have the resources to dedicate to comply with the SAFE Act requirements. The Federal SAFE Act was intended to prevent abuse in the for-profit mortgage industry and for the vast majority of the 47 Habitat Affiliates in Illinois, this exemption is critical. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Edinger
Board President
Habitat for Humanity of Illinois
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