

[Please delete or replace any items highlighted and in brackets from your comment.]

[Date]

Regulations Division, Office of General Counsel
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street SW, Room 10276
Washington, DC 20410-0500

RE: Public Comment on U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Proposed Rule FR-6518-P-01 - Equal Access to Housing in HUD Programs Revisions

Attn: Docket No. FR-6518-P-01

Dear Secretary Turner,

I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the Department of Housing and Urban Development's ("HUD") proposed rule on Equal Access to Housing in HUD Programs Revisions (the "Proposed Rule"). [Share a sentence about yourself, such as "I am a person who has experienced homelessness as a youth or young adult," "My name is NAME, and I am currently living in a shelter in LOCATION," "I spent time in homeless shelters as a young person," or "I chose not to access shelters when I experienced homelessness." You do not need to share your name, location, age, or the facility you live/lived in, but you can share that information if you want to.] I disagree with the Proposed Rule because it will harm LGBTQ+ youth experiencing homelessness and make it very difficult or impossible for transgender, nonbinary, and gender diverse (TNGD) youth [like me] to access services safely and without fear of harm, harassment, or discrimination. I urge HUD to withdraw the Proposed Rule and keep the current Equal Access Rule in place.

The Proposed Rule would force TNGD youth [like me] to be placed in facilities according to their sex assigned at birth rather than their gender identity. [Share any information you feel comfortable sharing about your experience accessing shelters or other programs designed for homeless youth. Use the questions below to shape what you might want to share. Remember, you do not have to share any details you don't want to. It is helpful for HUD to hear if you had a good experience because protections from harm and affirming and support programs were in place or if you faced harm from or a denial of services from programs that were not supportive of who you are and your needs.

- What was your experience like?
 - How did the staff treat you?
 - How did other youth treat you?

- If you are transgender, nonbinary, or gender-diverse, were you placed with boys or girls?
 - Did you want to be placed there?
 - Did anyone ask you about your gender identity?
 - Did any problems come up as a result of your placement?
 - Was your identity respected? Did staff use your name and pronouns?
- If you accessed a shelter or program, was the program helpful?
 - Did it have LGBTQ+ specific programs?
 - Were you ever afraid for your safety while accessing shelters or programs?
- If you are LGBTQ+ and chose not to use shelters or other support services, share why you made that decision. What information did you have that led you to that decision?

I am also worried that the Proposed Rule will allow programs to “require reasonable assurances or evidence to establish a person's sex.” This part of the rule means that shelters might be able to require young people [like me] to undress to prove where they belong. [Talk about why this might be scary, triggering, or otherwise traumatic for you and/or your peers.] I am concerned that LGBTQ+ youth would refuse to go to facilities if the Proposed Rule is implemented and facilities start requiring youth to “establish” their sex.

In conclusion, the Proposed Rule will harm LGBTQ+ youth [like me] across the country. If HUD dismantles the Equal Access Rule, LGBTQ+ youth across the country will be forced to experience homelessness without the help of programs designed to serve them. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

[Your Name OR Anonymous]