



<u>Transitional Housing for Recovery in Viable Environments (THRIVE) Act</u>

U.S. Rep. Andy Barr (R-KY) has introduced two bills aimed at providing more living and job training opportunities to Americans struggling to recover from drug addictions.

"It is critical that Congress do more to combat the opioid epidemic, especially in my home state of Kentucky where we have the third-highest opioid



overdose mortality rate in the nation," Rep. Barr said. "I'm proud to introduce these two crucial pieces of legislation that will empower individuals overcoming addiction."

On May 9 Rep. Barr proposed the Transitional Housing for Recovery In Viable Environments (THRIVE) Act, H.R. 5735, and the U.S. House of Representatives' version of the Comprehensive Addiction Recovery through Effective Employment and Reentry (CAREER) Act.

As a member of the House Financial Services Committee, which has jurisdiction over federal housing policy, the congressman said he understands that lawmakers "must support policies that expand transitional housing options and workforce development initiatives for individuals in the recovery process."

The THRIVE Act, H.R. 5735, would amend the United States Housing Act of 1937 to establish a demonstration program to set aside Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers for supportive and transitional housing for individuals recovering from opioid use disorders or other substance use disorders, according to the congressional record summary.

H.R. 5735 was inspired by successful recovery organizations in Rep. Barr's Sixth District and informed by hearings in the House Financial Services Committee, as well as by discussions with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Ben Carson, according to the lawmaker's office.

If enacted, the bill would create a pilot program to allocate housing vouchers to transitional housing non-profits with evidence-based models of recovery and life-skills training, according to a summary from Rep. Barr's staff.

The bill has been referred to the House Financial Services Committee.



<u>Transitional Housing for Recovery in Viable Environments (THRIVE) Act (Cont'd)</u>

The CAREER Act, S. 2730, introduced on April 23 by U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY), would amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a pilot program to help individuals in recovery from a substance use disorder transition from treatment to independent living and the workforce, among other purposes, according to the text of the bill.

S. 2730 has been referred to the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee.

"Transitional housing is a proven, evidence-based approach that has helped thousands of Americans maintain sobriety after completing rehab, gain valuable skills and job training, obtain employment, and eventually transition back into society to lead independent lives," said Rep. Barr.

The CAREER Act, according to a summary from the congressman's staff, would encourage partnerships between local businesses and treatment centers around job training, employment, and housing options for individuals in recovery, and also would provide more flexibility to states, which could direct federal funding to specific local initiatives.

The bill is clearly focused on combating the nation's opioid epidemic. For instance, S. 2730 would award five-year grants to five states selected from among the 10 states having the highest rate of death due to drug overdose per 100,000 people, based on data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for calendar years 2013 through 2017, according to the text of the bill.

Likewise, based on federal data for those same years, priority would be given to the states having the highest average rates of unemployment; the lowest average labor force participation rates; and the highest prevalence of opioid use disorder based, according to the text of S. 2730.

22 States Ban Housing Discrimination Against LGBTQ's

Orange County Congressman Dana Rohrabacher ignited a firestorm when he said this month Congress shouldn't extend fair housing protections to gays and lesbians.

But, California and 21 other states already have done so, according to two LGBTQ websites.

Currently, it's illegal to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation in Rohrabacher's home state as well as in such states as Colorado, Iowa, New Mexico and Utah, the sites say.







22 States Ban Housing Discrimination Against LGBTQ's (Cont'd)



Twenty of those states, including California, also extend fair housing protections to people on the basis of "gender identity."

Rohrabacher, a Republican seeking a 16th term in Congress, told Orange County Realtors delegation during a May 16 meeting at his Capitol Hill office he opposes a pending measure extending the U.S. Fair Housing Act to gays, lesbians and transsexuals. He repeated that view in an interview with the Southern California News Group Thursday, saying homeowners

should have the right to "choose who they do business with."

"We've drawn a line on racism, but I don't think we should extend that line," Rohrabacher said.

The Fair Housing Act passed in 1968 forbids home sellers, landlords and lenders from denying housing to people because of their race, color, religion, sex, national origin or because they're disabled. But gays, lesbians and transsexuals are not explicitly included.

The Fair and Equal Housing Act of 2017 would extend housing protections to those groups. That bill is still in committee.

"It's very easy for the congressman to ignore the wishes of his own state," said Charlotte Clymer, a spokesperson for the Washington, D.C., based Human Rights Campaign, one of two websites that compiled the state-by-state list of housing protections for gays and lesbians. "But Californians long ago, loud and clear, made their views known on this, and he should follow suit."

California law was amended in 1999 to ban discrimination based on a person's sexual orientation and amended in 2004 to ban discrimination based on his or her gender identity, according to the website LGBTMap.org.

Twenty-eight states don't explicitly ban housing discrimination against gays and lesbians, LGBTMap reported. They include Southern states such as Mississippi, Alabama and the Carolinas, and farm states like **Kansas** and Missouri. But Pennsylvania, Arizona and Michigan also do not have explicit housing protections for gays and lesbians, the website reported.





NYC Landlords Required to Install Self-Closing Doors on all Doors by 2021

After a spate of deadly fires, the City Council passed legislation Wednesday to require apartment doors that close automatically and child safety knobs for stoves.

A dozen people were killed in a Bronx fire in December, after a 3-year-old playing with a stove started a fire and his family left the door to their apartment open as they fled, allowing flames to spread through the building.

Under the bills passed by the Council, which the mayor is expected to sign, all apartments will have to have self-closing doors by 2021.



"This is a device that costs \$24," said Councilman Joe Borelli (R-Staten Island), the sponsor. "And it's something that would prevent fire and smoke from exiting one unit and going into others."

Another bill will require landlord to provide stove knob covers, which prevent kids from lighting the stove, for all apartments with children under 6 years old. Landlords will also be required to post notices in the building stressing the importance of closing doors in the event of a fire.



Who Do You Want to Dunk???

This Summer the AAGW will have a fundraiser to benefit the NAAPAC after the July monthly membership meeting. We are now taking nominations for who you would like to see perched above the water. <u>Submit</u> <u>your nominations here</u> or at

www.myaagw.com under the NAAPAC tab by June 22nd!









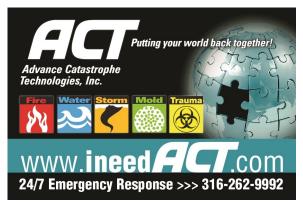


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