



STATEMENT

For Immediate Release: June 25, 2015

Praise to SCOTUS for Upholding Fair Housing

Today the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a central legal protection under the Fair Housing Act in its ruling in a Dallas, Texas-based case (Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs v. The Inclusive Communities Project, Inc.). For over 40 years, courts have held that disparate impact can be used under the Fair Housing Act to challenge unfair and avoidable policies that have the same effect as intentional discrimination. Today the Supreme Court has affirmed those decisions, and Texas Appleseed applauds the Court's decision to uphold such a basic tenet of fairness and equity.

Where a family lives is a key determinant of whether family members have access to good jobs, quality education, safe streets, a clean and healthy environment, and to the equal access to opportunity that is a core American value. Texas Appleseed advocates to ensure that families have choices about where they live that are not restricted because of their race or ethnicity. We work to support historically African-American and Latino communities in their efforts to overturn the inequitable and long-lasting impact of discrimination on their communities.

In neighborhoods from Galveston to Houston to the Rio Grande Valley, we have seen disparities that include substandard neighborhood drainage that leads to flooding, as well as decisions to allow chemical plants to locate in neighborhoods where toxins pose high risks to nearby homes and schools. Under the Supreme Court's ruling today, the Fair Housing Act will continue to be a powerful tool that these neglected communities can use to get relief.

We will continue to stand with these communities as they advocate for better avenues to opportunity for their families. We are delighted that the Supreme Court has today issued a decision that protects the rights of all Americans to have equal access to fair housing opportunities, regardless of their race, color, sex, disability status, familial status, or religion.

- Madison Sloan, director, Disaster Recovery and Fair Housing Project, at Texas Appleseed