



For Immediate Release

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Equal Rights Center Testifies Before U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

WASHINGTON, D.C., September 17, 2010 —This week, the Equal Rights Center (ERC) participated in a briefing before the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights to discuss the importance of affirmatively furthering fair housing in the District of Columbia. Hosted by the District of Columbia State Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (DC SAC), the ERC was joined by District government officials, leaders from fair housing and lending organizations, and other fair housing advocates.

“As the nation’s capital, the District should always strive to be an example of equal opportunity to all,” said ERC Executive Director, Don Kahl. “The Equal Rights Center greatly appreciates the opportunity to meet with the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and other fair housing leaders to discuss both successes and challenges in furthering fair housing in D.C.”

As part of the Fair Housing Act, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is required to administer housing and urban development programs in a manner that affirmatively furthers fair housing. Entities that receive grants from HUD are therefore required to prepare Analyses of Impediments to Fair Housing every five years and take appropriate steps to address the identified impediments.

In 2005, the DC SAC analyzed the housing market and found four impediments. This week’s briefing consisted of several panels discussing the District’s progress, or lack thereof, in addressing these impediments to fair housing, whether these impediments are still present, and whether others should be added or substituted.

The Board’s findings and recommendations will be used to provide guidance to HUD in the granting and administration of Community Development Block Grant funds.

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About the Equal Rights Center (www.equalrightscenter.org)

Originally formed in 1983, the Equal Rights Center (ERC) is a national non-profit civil rights organization based in Washington, D.C. With members located in 33 states and the District of Columbia, the ERC works nationally to promote equal opportunity in housing, employment, disability rights, immigrant rights, and access to public

accommodations and government services for all protected classes under federal, state, and local laws.