

# Nearly 19,000 OREGON REALTORS® are advocating to ensure the homebuying process is fair for everyone



**Discrimination in its many forms still affects many Americans, including those who are denied the housing opportunities we all deserve.** 'Love letters' are one factor that could exclude people of color from the opportunity of owning a home.



**Love letters – personal letters from an interested buyer to the seller unrelated to the sale agreement –** often contain personal information about the buyers. These personal details have the potential to create an environment where sellers are considering demographics such as race, marital status, national origin, religion, or sexual orientation when choosing an offer.

**Starting in January 2022,** people selling their homes in Oregon are no longer able to receive love letters from prospective buyers' agents. Oregon is the first state in the country to ban love letters.



## WHAT OREGON'S NEW LAW SAYS ABOUT THIS PRACTICE

"In order to help a seller avoid selecting a buyer based on the buyer's race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, marital status or familial status as prohibited by the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. § 3601, et seq.), a seller's agent shall reject any communications other than customary documents in a real estate transaction, including photographs provided by a buyer."

*- Oregon statute (HB 2550)*



## OREGON REALTORS® STAND AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

**Our real estate professionals have a high standard for fairness in housing,** based on a culture of personal and professional accountability. Oregon REALTORS® stand at the forefront of the fight for fairness in housing. We're proud that our state is a national leader in Fair Housing legislation and the first in the nation to take action to prevent the potential for discrimination posed by love letters.



**Additionally, we supported a bill to require regular training** for REALTORS® on Fair Housing laws. REALTORS® will take a certified Fair Housing course to activate their license and an additional course every two years to renew or reactivate their license.

**Oregon REALTORS® believes that ending the use of love letters** will help create a more level playing field for everyone. We all benefit when offers are evaluated on the terms rather than personal details.

