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House of Representatives

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Opening Statement
Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney
“A Threat to America’s Children:
The Trump Administration’s Proposal to Gut Fair Housing Accountability”
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
Wednesday, February 5, 2020

Good afternoon. Thank you all for coming today. As Chairwoman of the Committee on Oversight and Reform I first want to thank my colleague Representative Jaime Raskin, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties for convening this important hearing on the proposed affirmatively furthering fair house rule that guts fair housing accountability. This is the second in a series of four hearings examining the negative effects of the Trump Administration’s poverty, housing, hunger, and health regulations on children.

As I’ve said before, the Trump Administration is engaged in an attack on children. The administration should be creating economic opportunity and ensuring the health and well-being of our nation’s children, but instead they’ve been prioritizing special interests and the wealthy. It’s our job in Congress to protect all children from harmful regulations and ensure they have the resources to reach their full potential.

Today we will examine how the Department of Housing and Urban Development is completely abdicating its duty to promote fair housing. If this rule goes into effect, ongoing housing discrimination and segregation will continue to be swept under the rug, and HUD will end up doing far less to reduce segregation and expand housing opportunities for protected groups — further trapping children in concentrated poverty. Any effort to address fair housing should actively fight a long legacy of discrimination and promote access to opportunity for our children.

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