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Upholding the Fair Housing Act
Latino Policy Forum statement on Supreme Court decision in Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs v. The Inclusive Communities Project, Inc.

Chicago—June 26, 2015— As a leading voice in fair housing for Latinos in the Chicago metropolitan region, the Latino Policy Forum commends the Supreme Court’s decision this week to keep key provisions in the Fair Housing Act intact.

In a disconcertingly-narrow 5 to 4 ruling, the Supreme Court ultimately sided with 40 years of precedent by holding that the Fair Housing Act allows for disparate impact discriminations claims in [Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs v. The Inclusive Communities Project, Inc.](#)

A significant protection, disparate impact measures effect not intention. Unless there is an important justification, a housing policy is illegally discriminatory if it seriously disadvantages someone based on gender, race, religion, ethnicity, disability or familial status. Disparate impact allows plaintiffs to challenge such policies without having to show evidence of intent.

“A strong and effective Fair Housing Act is essential to unlocking opportunities,” said Sylvia Puente, executive director of the Forum. “With a ruling this close, it’s clear we have much work to do—the Forum will continue to advocate for equitable participation and equal access for Latinos in Illinois.”

Formerly known as Latinos United, the Forum has worked to ensure everyone, including low- and mid-income families, has access to quality, affordable housing. The most visible victory in Latinos United’s history was the successful lawsuit against the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) to combat discrimination against Latinos in public housing. Over the next 10 years, the resulting Latino Consent Decree led to the allocation of more than \$70 million in housing resources directed toward the community through improved access to conventional public housing units.

This year in the month of April, also known as Fair Housing Month, the Forum and its partners collectively reached more than 3,700 community members connecting them to resources, workshops and information about federal, state and local housing ordinances.

About the Latino Policy Forum

The Latino Policy Forum is the only organization in the Chicago area that facilitates the involvement of Latinos at all levels of public decision-making. The Forum conducts analysis to inform, influence and lead. Its goals are to improve education outcomes, advocate for affordable housing, promote just immigration policies, and engage diverse sectors of the community, with an understanding that advancing Latinos advances a shared future. For more information, visit www.latinopolicyforum.org.

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