

**Congressman Paul A. Gosar**

*Floor Speech*

Gosar Amendment #2 (Leg Counsel Number 133)--Prohibiting use of Funds for HUD's *Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing* Proposed Rule Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2015

Mr. Chairman (or Madam Chair), I have an amendment at the desk.

*[The Clerk will report]*

*[Amendment X offered by Mr. Gosar of Arizona—(reads)]*

**\*Interrupt Clerk\***

Mr. Chairman (or Madam Chair), I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read.

*[Without objection, so ordered. The Gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes.]*

Mr. Chairman (or Madam Chair),

I rise today to offer an amendment intended to prevent yet another costly overreach by the federal government into the jurisdiction of local towns and communities.

HUD has proposed a new regulation, titled *Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing*, which would grant the Department authority to dictate local zoning requirements in any community across the country who applies for a community development block grant.

According to reports, in 2012, this rule would have negatively impacted more than 1,200 municipalities throughout the country.

A trial run of the rule already took place in New York.

It failed miserably and a local county was forced to reject \$12 million dollars in funds that would have benefitted the community due to the impractical and unrealistic requirements associated with compliance.

The county had intended to use a large portion of these block grant funds to establish public housing for individuals in need.

Clearly, this flawed proposal by HUD will increase local taxes, depress property values and cause further harm to impoverished communities that are actually in need of these funds.

These new burdensome zoning rules being imposed by HUD bureaucrats on localities would be derived from tracked resident data based on citizens' race, sex, religion and other federally protected demographics.

Multiple watchdog groups have raised serious and valid concerns about HUD's proposal.

Americans for Limited Government President Nathan Mehrens wrote me in support of the amendment and stated,

“We call on every member of the House to support Rep. Gosar's amendment to defund HUD's scheme to redraw zoning maps in any locality that accepts any part of the \$3.5 billion a year in community development block grants from the federal government.

“The utopian goal of creating evenly distributed neighborhoods based on racial composition and income is bad policy, and it is unconstitutional.

"HUD has no place in local zoning decisions. Under federalism, that is left up to states, counties and municipalities to determine for themselves.

“At a time when the Supreme Court is roundly rejecting racial quotas as unconstitutional, there is no place for wasting taxpayer

dollars on social engineering that will never withstand judicial scrutiny.

"Housing discrimination based on race has been illegal since the 1960s, and people should be allowed to choose for themselves where they live without D.C. bureaucrats nationalizing zoning decisions for political reasons.

"Rep. Gosar deserves the thanks of all Americans for his courage in taking on this backdoor attempt to federalize our most basic living decisions.

“Americans for Limited Government strongly supports Gosar's amendment to defund racial quotas in local zoning decisions.”

I sincerely appreciate the strong support of this respected watchdog group.

I completely agree that this misguided proposal by HUD is a clear infringement by the federal government on municipalities.

HUD is essentially creating a thinly veiled set of rules and regulations by which these communities must conform, or face losing out on billions of dollars in grant money.

What has been so wrong with the process thus far?

Are there a plethora of examples of discriminatory applications of these grants?

Couldn't the federal government simply deny further monies to those grantees proved to have engaged in discrimination?

American citizens and communities should be free to choose where they would like to live and not be subject to federal neighborhood engineering at the behest of an overreaching central government.

Further, the federal government must not hold hostage what are traditionally grant monies to improve communities based on its quixotic ideas of what it believes every community should resemble.

Local zoning decisions have traditionally been, and should always be, made by local communities, not bureaucrats in Washington DC.

I ask my colleagues to support this common sense amendment because it keeps the federal government from reorganizing communities to a fantastical standard.

I ask my colleagues to support this amendment because it aims to treat municipalities and individual citizens as capable and intelligent rather than disenfranchised, divided, and coddled groups in need of protection from a problem which does not exist.

As always, I thank the Chairman and Ranking Member for their continued work on the Committee, and with that, I yield back.