

MORE ON FAIR HOUSING

Your June letters to the editor message praising reader feedback on "Fair Housing at 50" prompted me to write in myself.

In 1981, when I was housing and community development director for the Tri- State metropolitan planning organization, our staff conducted a HUD-sponsored mobility program. Without the benefit of the recent Harvard study that inspired the proposed Housing Choice Voucher Mobility Demonstration Act, but based on good instincts, with the local HUD office, we recognized that more Section 8 housing should be "portable" and we allocated housing vouchers outside the major cities to promote neighborhood choice and easier access to outlying jobs.

At the time opposition from suburban officials was based on the belief that the mobility program was a technique to relocate minority households to the suburbs.

Inner-city minority organizations believed that the mobility program encouraged the displacement of minority and low-income households and was an attempt to lessen black political power. Actually, the mobility program supported a policy of free choice and advocated increased housing opportunities for low-income and minority persons.

As the U.S. Congress is in the process of considering the Mobility Demonstration Act — an excellent equity element — one can only reflect how slowly the wheels of justice turn, especially for fair housing.

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