



For Immediate Release – July 22, 2014

Contact: Greg Kirschner, Legal Director, 860-263-0724

Connecticut Fair Housing Center Joins Suit Against Insurers for the Discriminatory Denial of Insurance for Rental Properties with Subsidized Tenants

On June 30, 2014, the Connecticut Fair Housing Center joined affected landlords in filing a federal lawsuit against Great American Insurance Group and American Empire Surplus Lines Insurance Company (“defendants”) alleging discrimination on the basis of lawful source of income in violation of Conn. Gen. Stat. § 46a-64c (“Connecticut’s fair housing law”) and on the basis of race and national origin in violation of Connecticut’s Human Rights Act and the Federal Fair Housing Act. The suit alleges that the defendants illegally refused to renew property insurance based on the presence of subsidized tenants in the rental properties. The case was filed by the Center’s legal staff and the law firm of Relman, Dane and Colfax PLLC.

Erin Kemple, Executive Director of the Connecticut Fair Housing Center, explained “Insurers that charge increased premiums or refuse to provide coverage to landlords based on the presence of subsidized tenants are violating state and federal law, creating pressure for landlords to discriminate against subsidized tenants, and reducing access to housing.”

The case is pending in the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut. For a copy of the complaint, click [here](#).

The Connecticut Fair Housing Center is a statewide nonprofit fair housing organization dedicated to ensuring that all people have equal access to housing opportunities in Connecticut. We are located on the web at www.ctfairhousing.org.