Title: Barriers to Housing Equality for the LGBT Community: A Literature Review

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Abstract: This research explores how state and federal policies impact housing inequalities, and how those housing inequalities impact quality of life for LGBT Americans. After the recent Supreme Court ruling in favor of same-sex marriage, housing inequality is one of the largest forms of discrimination that the LGBT community continues to face. This literature review examines information from thirteen peer-reviewed publications to understand the legal barriers to housing equality as well as the effect these barriers have on members of this population.

Motivation: My interest in this topic stems from my belief that access to housing is a basic human right. My research mentor, Dr. Lewinson, and I agreed on this topic due to our common interest in housing issues and my desire to understand and advocate for this underrepresented population.

Methods: This research was conducted through a literature review. In this project I examine thirteen peer-reviewed publications that study the impact various policies have on housing equality. These studies also explore the effect that access to safe, secure, and affordable housing has on members of the LGBT population.

Importance: This research is important because it provides a small glimpse into the challenges faced by LGBT individuals. This community is not provided the same protections as their peers when attempting to obtaining the secure, affordable housing that is an asset to their lives and development. Housing is a primary need essential to the health and happiness of citizens, therefore anything that threatens public access to housing should be studied and corrected. According to the Fair Housing Act of 1968, providers of housing are not permitted to deny living arrangements to individuals on the basis of race, religion, nationality, family status, age, handicap, or sex. Unfortunately, sexual orientation and gender expression are not included in this anti-discrimination act. In order to understand how to change current circumstances, research must be conducted and presented so that the public can be educated about this pressing issue.