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15

Metro Edition

Editorial rebuttal

Marital status remains irrelevant to housing

The American Association for Single People (AASP) strongly disagrees with the April 26 editorial "A Hearing for Religious Rights" in favor of the Michigan Supreme Court's decision to order a new hearing in the landlord-tenant dispute involving unmarried couples.

The judgment of the lower court was in favor of the landlord. The judgment of the Court of Appeals was in favor of the landlord. The judgment of the Michigan Supreme Court, rendered last December, overturned the judgment of the Court of Appeals and entered a judgment for the tenants.

The recent decision of the Supreme Court reversed the high court's earlier judgment in favor of the tenants and reopened the case for more hearings. Regardless of the court's reasoning, the two new Supreme Court justices who had participated in the Court of Appeals' judgment should not have voted in the case when it was pend-

ing in the Supreme Court. In effect, their participation in the case both in the Court of Appeals and in the Supreme Court created a conflict of interest. These two justices cannot ethically review their own judgment in a lower court.

This case affects the rights of millions of unmarried tenants in Michigan. Tenants should not have to conform their behavior to satisfy the religious beliefs of landlords who operate for-profit commercial rental businesses.

The American Association for Single People has a chapter in Michigan, and we will vigorously fight to defend the rights of single adults and unmarried couples (and their children) to fair housing — regardless of the punitive religious beliefs of some business owners. If a landlord advertises to the public, the landlord should not engage in religious discrimination against tenants with differing beliefs. Religious discrimination is clearly illegal under state and federal laws.

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For more information about AASP visit our website at

www.singlepeople.org

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