

FAN

Farmworker Advocacy Network

Member Organizations

2007 Changes in the NC Migrant Housing Act

East Coast Migrant Head Start Project

The Housing Assistance Council (HAC) reports that "farmworkers are among the worst-housed groups in the United States." Of the housing inspected during a HAC survey of farmworker housing on the East Coast, researchers found 38 percent severely inadequate or unfit for human habitation.

Episcopal Farmworker Ministry

Farm Labor Organizing Committee

Some of the main concerns of the Farmworker Advocacy Network (FAN) are the low standards that farmworker housing must comply with and the lack of enforcement of those already low standards. To address these concerns, FAN members worked with Senator Charlie Albertson (D-Duplin, Lenoir, Sampson) and Representative Martha Alexander (D-Mecklenburg) to introduce Senate bill 1466 and House bill 1501 respectively, which led to the revision of the NC Migrant Housing Act for the first time in over 17 years!

*Legal Aid of NC, Farmworker Unit**

National Farm Worker Ministry

NC Community Health Center Association

Due to passage of Senate Bill 1466 effective September 2, 2007:

- The NC Department of Labor must give priority in its post-occupancy inspections to the worst housing violators (units which are unregistered, whose operators have been fined in the past year, or whose housing was not in compliance during a pre-occupancy inspection).
- Housing operators must provide clean and sanitary mattresses on all beds.
- When migrant housing is determined to be uninhabitable by the NC Department of Labor, the housing operator must make repairs within 14 days or provide alternative housing at the same or lower cost.
- Detailed records of housing inspections and violations are to be made available to the public and the legislature each year.
- The NC Housing Finance Agency must study the need for the development and rehabilitation of farmworker housing.

NC Justice Center Immigrants Legal Assistance Project

NC Farmworkers' Project

*NC Farmworker Health Program**

NC Latino Coalition

Pesticide Education Project

Student Action with Farmworkers

In order to prevent an anti-immigrant amendment from being attached to the bill, SB 1466 requires inspectors to provide employers with the US Dept of Justice guide for compliance with the Immigration & Nationality Act.

*Telamon**

In addition to the provisions passed in SB 1466, funding for two additional housing inspectors for the NC Department of Labor was approved.

* Advisory Member only

For more information: www.migranthousing.net

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