

EXHIBIT D

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND**

CARMEN THOMPSON, *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

v.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
HOUSING AND URBAN
DEVELOPMENT, *et al.*,

Defendants.

Civil Action No. MJG-95-309

**DECLARATION OF ROBERT C. EMBRY, JR.
IN SUPPORT OF SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

1. I am president of The Abell Foundation, a position I have held since 1987. Established in 1953 on the initiative of the late Harry C. Black, the former publisher of *The Baltimore Sun*, The Abell Foundation is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for disadvantaged residents of Maryland, particularly those in the Baltimore region. We seek to open the doors of opportunity to all Marylanders by creating and supporting innovative solutions to poverty. I submit this declaration in support of the Settlement Agreement in this case in my personal capacity only.

2. I have deep knowledge of, and experience in, housing policy nationwide and in Baltimore. From 1977 to 1981, I was Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Before that, I served as Commissioner of Baltimore City's Department of Housing and Community Development from 1968 to 1977. I was elected to the Baltimore City Council (1967-1968) and served on the Baltimore City Planning Commission.

3. I also have an extensive background in education policy. I was president of the Maryland State Board of Education from 1990 to 2005 and a member of the Baltimore City Public Schools Commissioners from 1983 to 1986. A native of Baltimore, I graduated from Harvard Law School, Williams College, and Baltimore City College.

4. I commend the Court for shining a light on the critical, but often overlooked, issue of fair housing and the need for a regional approach to that issue in its pathbreaking 2005 ruling. I also commend the parties to this case for coming to an agreement that provides for substantial additional resources and important policy initiatives that will create meaningful opportunities, not just for thousands of families who are members of the Plaintiff Class, but for the Baltimore community as a whole.

5. Based on the demonstrated success of the Baltimore Housing Mobility Program launched under the *Thompson* Partial Consent Decree (PCD), research on mobility programs in other U.S. cities, and the benefits that flow from a regional approach to fair housing, I wholeheartedly support the settlement in this case.

6. As this Court recognized in its 2005 ruling, Baltimore can move forward only by taking a regional approach to housing opportunity. I welcome the provision in the settlement agreement that will require HUD to conduct civil rights reviews to assess regional impact before major decisions concerning federally-funded housing and community development are implemented. This regional perspective will help to ensure that poor African-American families with children will have housing opportunities throughout the region, regardless of the race and socioeconomic class of the

neighborhood, rather than concentrated in the high-poverty neighborhoods and schools of Baltimore City.

7. In addition, I believe that the provisions of the Settlement Agreement that will continue the Baltimore Housing Mobility Program, launched under the PCD, offer an unparalleled chance to improve, in concrete ways, the lives of poor children and families who choose to move to communities of opportunity. We now know that housing mobility is a particularly effective strategy for improving educational outcomes for poor children, more so than traditional, school-based reforms. Recent research in Montgomery County, Maryland shows that the combined effect of living in a low-poverty neighborhood and attending a low-poverty school can improve poor children's educational outcomes more than increased funding does. Heather Schwartz, *Housing Policy Is School Policy: Economically Integrative Housing Promotes Academic Success in Montgomery County, Maryland*, Century Foundation, 2010, available at <http://tcf.org/publications/2010/10/housing-policy-is-school-policy>. The striking conclusion of this research — that integrating housing may be the best way to help poor children perform in school — should not be ignored.

8. The Settlement Agreement's regional approach to fair housing, and the Baltimore Housing Mobility Program in particular, represent the kind of innovative solutions to familiar problems that The Abell Foundation has sought to support. The Foundation has provided support to various components of the Baltimore Housing Mobility Program. Since the inception of that program, The Abell Foundation has provided funding to the Housing Authority of Baltimore City and its subcontractor Metropolitan Baltimore Quadrel so that they could assist participating families for whom

the heightened security deposit requirements of landlords in opportunity neighborhoods might otherwise be an insurmountable barrier. And since 2002, The Abell Foundation has also supported the participation of mobility families in Vehicles for Change (VFC). VFC helps Baltimore City residents become car owners, build credit, and move toward self-sufficiency. Each year, VFC has provided approximately 50 cars to Baltimore City families participating in the Baltimore Housing Mobility Program, most of which are headed by single mothers. A 2003 survey indicates that the program is successful at increasing opportunity through car ownership: 68% of car owners surveyed have obtained better jobs, with an average annual salary increase of \$4,853. In addition, all reported that they now take their children to after-school activities and athletic programs.

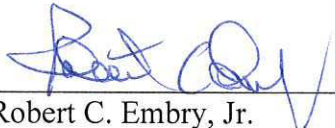
9. In addition to The Abell Foundation's support of the Baltimore Housing Mobility Program, I have agreed to serve on the Board of Directors of the Baltimore Regional Housing Partnership (BRHP), recently formed to serve as the Regional Administrator of the *Thompson* Vouchers pursuant to the Settlement Agreement. I agreed to serve on the Board of BRHP because I believe that the Baltimore Housing Mobility Program offers the chance to pioneer new strategies to combat stubborn problems faced by families in high-poverty, low-opportunity neighborhoods. In particular, as discussed above, I believe that housing mobility can help close the achievement gap and improve educational outcomes for poor children.

10. In sum, I urge the Court to approve the Settlement Agreement and the tools it provides to expand the Baltimore Housing Mobility Program and further a regional approach to fair housing. The continued success of the Baltimore Housing

Mobility Program will be a triumph, not just for poor families, but for all of the Baltimore Region. Truly integrated housing is an ideal whose fulfillment will benefit us all.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated: November 14, 2012
Baltimore, Maryland


Robert C. Embry, Jr.

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