



## **APRIL IS FAIR HOUSING MONTH – A DAY OF FAIR HOUSING CELEBRATION AND EDUCATION AT THE VERMONT STATEHOUSE – Tuesday, April 4, 2017**

- ❖ Information table in the Statehouse Card Room. Some Fair Housing Experts will be available for discussion and to answer questions. 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM
- ❖ Reading of a Legislative Concurrent Resolution Endorsing April as Fair Housing Month in Vermont, 2017. 10:00 AM in House Chamber
- ❖ Signing of April Fair Housing Month in Vermont Proclamation by the Governor [not yet confirmed]

**April** has come to be recognized and proclaimed as Fair Housing Month because the Federal Fair Housing Act was signed into law on April 11, 1968.

On April 11, 1968, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1968, [expanding] the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The 1968 act prohibited discrimination concerning the sale, rental, and financing of housing based on race, religion, national origin, sex, (and as amended) handicap and family status.

**Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act is also known as the Fair Housing Act (of 1968)."**

The federal Fair Housing Act was passed after a long difficult political and social struggle. Advocates in and out of Congress pushed for adoption of a fair housing bill but did not achieve passage until one week after the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr on April 4, 1968. After this historic tragedy, Congress finally passed the Bill and President Lyndon Johnson signed it into law on the 11th. Dr. King's name had been closely associated with fair housing since open housing marches in Chicago in 1966, which he helped organize and lead.

Vermont enacted laws prohibiting housing discrimination in 1987, and with that passage and subsequent amendments, Vermont law now protects against discrimination in housing on the basis of all the federal categories plus, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, and receipt of public assistance.

**Please Join Us!**

