

House Housing Finance and
Policy Committee
473 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155



February 28, 2023

Dear Chair Howard and Members of the Committee,

The Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers (MCCD) is an association of nonprofit community development organizations and Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) committed to expanding the wealth and resources of communities through housing opportunities and economic development initiatives. MCCD's mission to build strong and stable communities can only be achieved by addressing the inequities that have shaped housing policies at every level of government. These policies and practices have prevented Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and other communities from achieving housing stability, accessing capital, and building wealth.

MCCD is writing in support of H.F. 647 to add new standards for discretionary and mandatory eviction expungements. The devastating effects of the eviction crisis reach every part of Minnesota. In 2022 alone, 18,855 evictions were filed in Minnesota courts, up from 15,457 in 2019. Eviction records trap renters in an impossible cycle of poverty as evictions can limit the housing options that a renter can pursue. In many cases, evictions can push individuals and families towards undesirable or unsafe housing and homelessness. Eviction expungements can help decrease the harmful impacts associated with eviction, and support renters in finding a home.

As eviction filings continue to rise past pre-pandemic levels, we must support renter households in achieving housing stability. MCCD supports adding standards for discretionary expungements, adding situations for mandatory expungements, and requiring the courts to keep eviction case filings confidential until after the case has been decided.

By passing H.F. 647, we can better support renter households in finding a safe and stable place to call home.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to working with you this session to address Minnesota's affordable housing crisis. Please reach out to Kelly Law (klaw@mccdmn.org) should you have any questions or need further information.

Sincerely,

Elena Gaarder

Chief Executive Officer

Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers