

Date: 3/7/2024

Dear Chair Ginny Klevorn and members of the House State and Local Government Finance and Policy Committee

My name is Chikio Richmond, I'm the Executive Director Healing Homes Living Services an assisted living facility and Betty's Healing Homes a sober housing company.

I'm writing this letter today in support of House file #3938. Currently both 245D and 144G licensing requirements are extremely rigorous and go beyond the scope of any city regulated rental license.

As someone who holds a state license and has gone through the city zoning process required for sober housing licensing, I feel to the local licensing is duplicative and serves as a vehicle for discrimination.

We've recently seen city licenses used as a backdoor tool to prohibit or remove facilities servicing individuals with disabilities.

This has disproportionately impacted BIPOC providers providing culturally specific care in suburban communities.

In the instance with the city of New Hope, they revoked the providers rental license, and did so in a way that violated the rights of the residents for setting closures and forced the provider out of business.

We need this bill to ensure such discrimination is prevented in the future.

Thank you, Representative Curran, for carrying this bill.

Regards,

Chikio Richmond