



April 4, 2022

Dear Chair Noor and Members, House Workforce and Business Development Committee,

Metro Cities, representing the shared interests of cities across the seven-county metropolitan area, appreciates the opportunity to comment on HF 4355 - Noor, the finance and policy omnibus bill.

Metro Cities appreciates the inclusion of funding in the bill for the Redevelopment Grant and Demolition Loan Program, as well as other priorities, including accessible childcare, workforce development, closing economic disparities by investing in lower-income communities, investing in small businesses, and supporting COVID relief.

The Redevelopment Grant and Demolition Loan Program has a successful record of attracting millions of dollars in private investments through the use of relatively modest state funds. Reusing previously developed land has many public benefits and is efficient. The program helps cities revitalize downtowns, increase their local property tax base, and creates good-paying jobs.

Access to affordable childcare is a significant need in the metropolitan region. The funding in this bill will help families address their needs and boost local economies.

Metro Cities supports the funds for workforce development to help train workers gain important skills that match available jobs in the region.

Closing economic disparities is important to a racially diversifying region. This bill's investments in small businesses, emerging developers, and people of color will help grow a strong regional economy through participation by more of the region's residents.

Metro Cities thanks the committee for its focus on local, regional, and statewide economies and supporting investments in people and employers. We urge the legislature to fund these programs in its supplemental budget for FY 2023-24.

Respectfully,

Charlie Vander Aarde
Government Relations Specialist – Metro Cities