METROPOLITAN INTERFAITH COUNCIL ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING

"Do justice, love mercy, walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8



Dear Chair Hausman and Members of the Committee:

MICAH Supports

HF 2860 (Howard) Eviction prohibited for rent nonpayment when tenant rental assistance application is pending.

HF 3098 (Agbaje) Court prohibited from requiring bond or security prior to housing matter adjudication.

HF 3667 (Hausman) Establishing a temporary emergency rental assistance program.

It is critical to protect current renters from evictions when they have a rental assistance application in process, we need to protect our renters from undue cost burdens in the court system in the adjudication of a housing matter, and we need to assist the potentially thousands of household who need emergency rental assistance NOW to address their arrear rental payments during the COVID-19 pandemic.

MICAH's mission is to ensure everyone, without exception, has a safe, decent accessible home that is affordable to them.

Over half of MICAH's Board and staff have experienced homelessness, housing instability or discrimination and over 70% of our Board and staff are from diverse communities.

MICAH's members are actively involved in our community to address the immediate needs of people at risk of and/or experiencing homelessness and creating and maintaining affordable housing opportunities. Our primary goals are to prevent homeless and to have homes that are affordable for everyone.

Over 500,000 Minnesota Households are paying over 30% of their income for housing. Which means they are making choices between paying rent, buying food, clothing, paying unexpected bill, etc. and are constantly at risk of homelessness with the loss of income, an accident, health crisis, or emergency.

God's peace, Sue Watlov Phillips, M.A. Executive Director MICAH President, National Coalition For The Homeless