February 6, 2023

Chair Howard, Housing Finance and Policy Committee

Dear Chair Howard and Committee Members,

I’m writing to convey Simpson Housing Services’ full support of Bring It Home, Minnesota - HF11. In more than 40 years of operating emergency shelter and supportive housing programs, we have remained hopeful for a systems solution to the ongoing crisis of housing instability in Minnesota.

This bill is the first solution that is proposed at the appropriate scale relative to the significant portion of all of our communities affected by the growing disparity between rents and income levels. Bring it Home creates a statewide rental assistance program that would provide vouchers for everyone who qualifies across the state. Passing this bill would be transformational to Minnesota. We would immediately stabilize low-income households who struggle to afford their homes by limiting their housing costs to 30% of their income, freeing up money to provide for their children, their health and their future. This assistance would directly support many low-income workers across the state, allowing us to have a more productive and prosperous workforce.

We need a solution as big as the problem, and Bring it Home provides that solution and would help all aspects of housing. This bill would impact my organization and the people we serve as both a homelessness prevention measure and a mechanism to improve stability for households exiting shelter and restabilizing back in community.

Please support this bill in committee today and as a priority for your caucus. Everything starts with home and this substantial investment will be the foundation of a Minnesota where all can thrive.

Thank you for considering this important legislation that supports housing stability for all Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

Steve Horsfield
Executive Director
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