



Dear Chair Hausman and Members of the Committee:

MICAHA Supports HF 40: Yes to Invest in Housing: \$2B in 2022

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

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

At least 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 repair, etc. Research shows that housing subsidies are the most successful model in preventing homelessness and stabilizing the housing for Minnesotans.

We have one of highest rates of homeownership in the country. We subsidize higher income Minnesotans homeownership between \$1.5-\$2 Billion/ year through Mortgage revenue bonds, down payment assistance, repair assistance, homestead credits, property tax deductions, interest deductions, and capital gains deferrals.

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We need to invest at least as much money in rental housing subsidies for Minnesotans with more limited incomes as we do for Minnesotans with higher incomes in homeownership.

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