



**Greater Twin Cities
United Way**
gtcuw.org

TO: Representative Alice Hausman
Representative Esther Agbaje
Representative Michael Howard
Representative Liz Reyer
Representative Tama Theis

Senator Rich Draheim
Senator Gary Dahms
Senator Zach Duckworth
Senator Kari Dziedzic
Senator Eric Pratt

April 30, 2021

Dear Members of the Housing Finance and Policy Bill Conference Committee,

On behalf of Greater Twin Cities United Way, I am writing to express our support of eviction reform and ensuring a fair and thoughtful off-ramp process as the eviction moratorium is phased out. We know that stable homes are critical for all Minnesotans who are still feeling the negative impacts to their health, finances and employment due to COVID-19, particularly Minnesotans of Color. Ensuring people can stay stably housed while avoiding unnecessary evictions and ensuring landlords stay whole, paired with long-term eviction reform, will result in better outcomes for everyone, both during the pandemic and beyond.

On average, more than 15,000 households in our state face eviction each year, with 90 percent of evictions filed for unpaid rent. We know that those numbers could be significantly higher following the end of the eviction moratorium, due to the impacts of COVID-19 and the number of Minnesota families who are one emergency away from being unable to pay for their housing.

Minnesota has one of the fastest eviction processes in the nation and is one of only seven states in the country that does not require landlords to notify tenants before filing. Evictions disproportionately affect low-wealth households and Households of Color, with Black women with children especially vulnerable.

Updating Minnesota's eviction process while also ensuring a thoughtful and smooth transition away from the existing eviction moratorium is imperative. Doing so would allow reasonable time for families to connect to resources that would help them stay in their homes or find other stable housing; prevent future evictions; and prevent people from sliding into homelessness, which continues to plague families across the state. We know these things have a direct correlation – 39 percent of Minnesotans experiencing homelessness were evicted from their last home or did not have their lease renewed.

By enacting a fair off-ramp process from the eviction moratorium, requiring a formal pre-eviction notice to tenants from landlords prior to the official filing of an eviction, and expanding eligibility for potential eviction expungements, we can ensure more secure, equitable housing and a better future for all Minnesotans.

Thank you,

Acooa Ellis
Senior Vice President, Community Impact
Greater Twin Cities United Way