

March 9, 2022

Re: HF3367 (Moran)

Dear Chair Hausman and Members of the Housing Finance and Policy Committee,

We thank you for the opportunity to share the Minnesota Social Service Association's (MSSA) support of HF3367 to provide an appropriation to Model Cities, an agency member of MSSA, to preserve housing for communities of color. The Minnesota Social Service Association is made up of over 4,000 health and human service professionals statewide. Our members cover the health and human service spectrum —direct care professionals, social workers, case managers, etc. —and are employed by for-profit and non-profit entities, as well as state and local government agencies. MSSA believes in equitable and affordable housing for all, which is why we support HF3367.

Rising rents, increased costs associated with home ownership, and housing instability have disproportionately affected Black, Indigenous and People of Color due to discriminatory housing practices, higher rates of eviction, and lack of generational wealth. Model Cities has continually sought to support marginalized and underserved communities with an emphasis on meeting the needs and investing in the economic stability and vibrancy of Black Minnesotans in St. Paul's Frogtown/Thomas-Dale and Summit-University neighborhoods. As a Black-led organization that provides community and family coaching, supportive housing, emergency shelter, affordable housing, home ownership services, and rental space for minority-owned businesses, Model Cities is uniquely positioned to best serve their community as they actively address racial disparities and inequity in housing.

However, the ongoing impacts of the pandemic and civil unrest following the murder of George Floyd have strained their resources and ability to meet increased need. The investments outlined in HF3367 would help Model Cities boost their organizational capacity, meet increased community need, and help close the persistent racial and economic disparities in our State.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share our support on behalf of our members and the clients they serve. MSSA seeks equitable and affordable housing for all, and this bill would help achieve that for Minnesotans most in need. Please reach out to us with questions, comments, or concerns at [msancartier@mnssa.org](mailto:msancartier@mnssa.org).

Sincerely,

Marcia Milliken  
Minnesota Children's Alliance  
MSSA Legislative Co-Chair

Terry Hildebrandt  
The Salvation Army  
MSSA Board President

Michelle SanCartier  
Minnesota Social Service Association  
MSSA Director of Public Policy & Advocacy