

House Judiciary Finance and Civil Law
559 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155



Dear Chair Becker-Finn and Members of the Committee,

February 29, 2024

The Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers (MCCD) is an association of nonprofit community development organizations and Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) committed to expanding the wealth and resources of communities through housing opportunities and economic development initiatives. MCCD's mission to build strong and stable communities can only be achieved by addressing the harms and inequities that have shaped housing and economic development policies at every level of government. These policies have prevented Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) and other communities from achieving housing stability, accessing capital, and building generational wealth.

We ask that you support HF 3640 and clarify that housing discrimination based on a person's source of income is illegal.

The Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCV) and other rental assistance programs allow participants to find and pay for market-rate housing in a community of their choice. These vouchers are critical to addressing the shortage of affordable homes that are available to families across income levels. Lawmakers must do more to ensure that households with access to all forms of housing assistance do not face source of income discrimination. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities has found that in states without source of income laws, renters have fewer options of cities and neighborhoods where they can find housing. Research has found that households with children and those headed by Black and older adults have significantly lower odds of using their voucher.

We appreciate the committee's consideration of HF 3640. By amending the Minnesotan Human Rights Act to clarify that housing assistance programs are covered by source of income protections, HF 3640 provides one path to reducing barriers and increasing access to housing for all Minnesotan households.

Thank you for your time and consideration. MCCD and our members would like to make ourselves available for any additional information to best help inform your decisions. Please reach out to Kelly Law, Senior Policy and Field Building Advisor at MCCD, 612-814-0760 or klaw@mccdmn.org, should you need any further information now or throughout the legislative session.

Sincerely,

Elena Gaarder

Elena Gaarder
Chief Executive Officer, MCCD