



April 5, 2021

Chair Becker-Finn and Members of the Committee:

The Minnesota Multi Housing Association (MHA) is an industry nonprofit representing 1,800 members and 400,000 housing units in the state. I write today to respectfully raise our concerns with Article 4, Sections 7, 8, and 9 contained in the HF 1030, DE3 amendment.

These provisions would create an obligation for an owner and operator of rental property to engage with all levels of government assistance programs.

Government housing assistance programs have significant costs and due diligence requirements and were designed as voluntary programs. This proposal would create an obligation of all landlords to sign contracts with government entities to engage in these programs, follow extensive rules no matter the extent of the program burdens, and further train staff on these program obligations. MHA would recommend helping relieve these burdens in current programs to achieve higher levels of participation from private rental housing providers.

These sections of the bill would further allow all levels of government to create mandatory assistance programs. We have significant concerns for the broad application which could be implemented in a prospective program.

Finally, the language creates a loophole where local non-government organizations could create a housing subsidy with which landlords would be obligated to comply.

MHA appreciates the opportunity to provide our concerns with written testimony on this proposal.

Respectfully,

Kyle D. Berndt
Director of Public Policy
Minnesota Multi Housing Association