

March 28, 2022

Re: HF3568 (Her)

Dear Chair Schultz and Members of the Human Services Finance and Policy Committee,

We thank you for the opportunity to share the Minnesota Social Service Association's support of HF3568 to allow those with SSI benefits to retain more of their personal income. The Minnesota Social Service Association (MSSA) 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 affordable and accessible housing for all which is why we support the measures in HF3568.

Housing instability is an issue for many Minnesotans but especially for seniors, adults with disabilities, those with low incomes, and those who are homeless or unsheltered. Minnesota's Housing Support program is a permanent supportive housing program that helps seniors and adults with disabilities who have low, fixed incomes maintain stable housing. By providing them with resources, the Housing Support program aims to prevent them from living in institutions or becoming homeless.

However, many individuals who receive Housing Support, SSI, and choose to live in a community setting experience significant financial difficulty. Housing Support recipients must make monthly payments toward their cost of rent. Both earned income and unearned income, which includes SSI, is considered when determining the amount an individual must pay toward their rent. This means that some Housing Support recipients end up paying for their full benefit and are unable to afford other basic costs of living which increases their risk of housing instability. HF3568 would mitigate this issue by allowing those with SSI benefits to retain more of their personal income, removing barriers toward program enrollment, and helping individuals build skills for financial stability.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share our support on behalf of our members and the clients they serve. MSSA seeks housing stability for all, and this bill would have a big impact on the Minnesotans our members serve. 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

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

Terry Hildebrandt  
The Salvation Army  
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