



February 18th, 2026

To the Members of the House Housing Finance and Policy Committee

Equity in Place is a coalition centering the expertise and power of people of color to uproot policies that create racial inequity — and ensure our communities have choice, agency, and self-determination in where they live and what their neighborhoods look like. In the wake of the violent, unconstitutional Operation Metro Surge, we are witnessing catastrophic numbers of families facing eviction and homelessness: rent is past due, and Emergency Rental Assistance is needed now.

The federal attack on Minnesota is about more than immigration-- it is compounding an existing housing crisis. Minnesotans – citizens, refugees, and immigrants alike– have been attacked, detained, and separated from their families when leaving their homes to get groceries, pay bills, or open their businesses. Sheltering in place has become a necessity. **Tens of thousands of families are unable to get to work safely to earn money to make rent**, placing them at risk for eviction. If served eviction notices, many cannot safely get to eviction court or access homelessness prevention services. An eviction record will follow a tenant for 7 years.

Emergency rental assistance is crucial to prevent a tsunami of evictions and to ward off the disproportionate harm facing Minnesotan renters of color, immigrants, and refugees. **We Support (HF 3403, HF 3410, and HF 3424) establishing a one-time emergency rental assistance aid for counties, amending provisions related to redemption in an eviction action for nonpayment of rent, and amending the notice requirements for an eviction action for nonpayment of rent.**

These necessary measures are just the beginning of the road to recovery for Minnesota. The drawdown of federal agents does not bring justice or economic repair. Minnesotan immigrants are hard-working, entrepreneurs, and drivers of our economy. We want to get back to work, continue living in the neighborhoods we love, and continue to make Minnesota the unique and beautiful place it is. We urge you to do everything in your power, as our representatives, to make it possible for our families to stay in place and our communities to rebuild.

Thank you,

Juan Luis Rivera-Reyes - Coalition Organizer at the Alliance for Metropolitan Stability



**Equity in Place Coalition Members:**

African Career Education and Resource (ACER)  
Alliance for Metropolitan Stability  
Ain Dah Yung Center  
Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, University of MN  
Community Stabilization Project  
COPAL  
Harrison Neighborhood Association  
HOME Line  
Hope Community  
Housing in Action  
Housing Justice Center  
Jewish Community Action  
Local Progress Minnesota  
Minnesota Consortium of Community Developers  
MN STEP (Standing Together to End Poverty)  
Native American Community Development Institute  
New American Development Center  
Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association  
Pueblos de Lucha y Esperanza MN  
West Side Community Organization

February 18, 2026

The Honorable Mike Howard  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor Centennial Office Building  
St Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Spencer Igo  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Centennial Office Building  
St Paul, MN 55155

Re: HF3403 and HF3410

Dear Co-Chairs Howard and Igo, and Members of the Housing Finance and Policy Committee:

We write to you today as co-founders of Neighbors Helping Neighbors, the largest mutual aid network in the metro area.

While there are reports that ICE agents are leaving Minnesota, the need to support our neighbors is actually more urgent than ever. Our taxpayer dollars funded this terrorizing force in our communities, and now Minnesotans are using their hard-earned money again - this time to repair the harm. Individuals, nonprofits, and houses of worship have collectively raised hundreds of thousands of dollars keep neighbors housed.

At Neighbors Helping Neighbors, we have raised nearly \$650,000 from more than 6,500 individual donations across every state in the country. We have received hundreds of rent assistance requests and have fulfilled more than 241 of them.

But the need is relentless. We hear from mothers who have lost their working spouse and cannot leave home to work because they must care for young children. A 17-year-old called me after her father was detained, asking how she could possibly cover rent. A nephew reached out seeking help for his aunt, who cannot read and is too afraid of detention to travel safely to work. Our requests come from across the metro - Chaska, Burnsville, Brooklyn Park, Minneapolis, St. Louis Park, Apple Valley, and St. Paul.

We reopened our application this Tuesday. Within 22 minutes, we had to close it because we had already reached capacity. The average rent request has increased from \$1,361 to \$1,728, as many applicants have been unable to work - and therefore unable to pay rent - since December. We are grateful to do this work. But truthfully and humbly, this is not our job.

Some may feel that this chapter of fear in our state is coming to an end. It is not. Hundreds - if not thousands - of families will need to recover not only emotionally from this horrifying season, but economically. Ten weeks of fear can mean ten years of recovery.

That is why we urge you to take seriously the proposals in HF3403, which would equip local counties to more aggressively support our neighbors, and HF3410, which ensures organizers, nonprofits, and houses of worship on the ground can with more certainty continue to keep people housed amid the ongoing threat of eviction.

We are deeply moved by how many Minnesotans want to help. Mutual aid efforts have grown dramatically across the metro. People are ready to show up. But we must not confuse mutual aid with a functioning safety net. The question before us is whether we will match our neighbors' courage with systems and support worthy of their resilience.

We invite you to see this moment as a real-time signal: when people cannot safely get to work and rent is still due, the economic stability of our state becomes fragile very quickly. Let us respond accordingly.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Anna Stamborski  
Catherine Elliot  
Adam Evers

Co-Founders, Neighbors Helping Neighbors