

Dear Chair Gomez and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for hearing HF 3090 and for your leadership in authoring the bill

**MICAH Supports HF 3090:** $75,000,000 to fund grants for the development, improvement,

or the expansion of emergency shelter facilities.

MICAH’s mission is to ensure everyone, without exception has a safe, decent accessible home that is affordable to them.

MICAH’s members are actively involved in our community to address the immediate needs of people at risk of and/or experiencing homelessness. Our primary goals are to prevent homeless and to have homes that are affordable for everyone.

It is critical that we re-invest in our Emergency Shelter system to ensure that people who do experience homelessness have access to a low barrier, safe, decent, respectful place to be and wrap around services to assist them to access housing that is affordable, as rapidly as possible, in our community.

We support the expansion of shelters to be 24 hour facilities with private rooms and wrap around services. We also recognize that in some communities that may not be possible.

This funding will be the most significant State funding that we have had for shelters since 1984 (MHFA Temporary Housing) and when shelters and transitional housing capital funding was an eligible use in Minnesota State Housing Trust Fund.

God’s peace,

Sue Watlov Phillips, M.A.

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