

HENNEPIN COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

February 28, 2023

Chair Michael Howard  
473 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Howard,

I write to express Hennepin County Board of Commissioners' support for the Local Affordable Housing Aid bill (HF 1419/SF 1752).

Hennepin County strongly supports efforts to ensure safe and stable housing for all individuals and families. Affordable housing is fundamental for residents, leading to improved health, access to education, and employment opportunities.

Hennepin County residents experience a severe lack of affordable housing options. According to the latest data from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), 26% (132,000 households) of Hennepin County households are cost burdened, defined as spending more than 30% of income toward housing, including an estimated 63,000 households paying more than 50% of their income towards housing. The problem is predominately acute for the lowest-income household (earning less than \$31,000 annually for a family of three or \$21,000 for an individual) where there are only 14,000 units deemed affordable.

Hennepin County is well positioned to accelerate development of affordable housing. Hennepin County, through its Housing and Redevelopment Authority, works across a housing continuum to support our most challenged residents. We offer several grant opportunities and programs to support housing and development projects throughout the county and annually solicits coordinated affordable housing development request for proposals (RFP) every year. During our latest RFP for affordable multifamily rental projects, County programming was oversubscribed by four times (\$33.5 million in requests for \$8.1 million available) for local resources.

This bill will substantially mitigate Minnesota's housing crisis by adding more affordable housing options to the market. We strongly urge your support for HF 1419/SF 1752.

Sincerely,



**Irene Fernando, Chair**  
**Hennepin County Board of Commissioners**  
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