



CATHOLIC CHARITIES
Twin Cities

Catholic Charities at Elliot Park
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March 28, 2023

Representative Tina Liebling
Chair, House Health Finance Committee

Re: HF2980 – Health Finance Omnibus and Housing & Homelessness Provisions

Chair Liebling and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Catholic Charities Twin Cities, I write to thank you for prioritizing transformative investments in housing and homelessness as part of the Health Finance omnibus bill (HF2980):

Modifying Housing Support Countable Income (Articles 10 & 11)

This reform will ensure Housing Support tenants don't pay more than 30% of their unearned income (including SSI, RSDI and veterans' benefits) toward housing costs, and it excludes tribal per capita payments and lived experience income from countable income. Doing so will help more individuals exit homelessness, help those with housing keep it, and help those who are ready to transition off the program build the skills and savings to do so successfully.

Recuperative Care (Article 1, Section 21)

Establishing a statewide MA reimbursement will help strengthen partnerships between the public, private and nonprofit sectors that are working to improve health and patient outcomes for individuals experiencing homelessness. Recuperative care decreases emergency room visits and hospital readmissions, helps prevent the need for higher-cost components of medical care, and provides a safe place for people experiencing homelessness to heal.

We also support these provisions, which would support housing stability and greater financial independence for individuals in need:

- Addressing deep poverty by increasing General Assistance rates
- Transitional services and inflation adjustments to Housing Stabilization Services
- Housing Support presumptive eligibility for individuals exiting a correctional facility

These provisions are the product of years of conversations and advocacy by diverse coalitions from across the state, and they are needed now to disrupt trends in housing and homelessness, reduce poverty, and advance health equity.

We are grateful for your support and look forward to continuing to partner with you to move these provisions forward this session.

Sincerely,

Lorna Schmidt
Director, Public Policy & Advocacy