



Legal Services Advocacy Project

May 6, 2022

The Honorable Alice Hausman  
Chair, Housing Finance and Policy Committee  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
453 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Rich Draheim  
Chair, Housing Finance and Policy Committee  
Minnesota Senate  
3227 Minnesota Senate Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: HF 4366 (SF 4019) – Agriculture and Housing Omnibus Bill (Housing Provisions)

Dear Chairs Hausman and Draheim, and Members of the Conference Committee:

Legal Aid respectfully submits this request for consideration as you begin your deliberations in conference committee regarding housing policy that will be included in the conference committee report. Several provisions in the House language (Article 6) would benefit renters, many of whom include Legal Aid's clients. Several provisions -- in particular -- in the House language in the bill would significantly increase housing stability, avoid unnecessary evictions, and provide the opportunity for renters to find resources to cover rent and provide time for renters to seek legal advice and assistance to ensure fair due process.

Specifically, we would highlight the following provisions in Article 6 of the House language:

- Making permanent the protections under the Eviction Moratorium Phaseout language from last session to prohibit the filing of an eviction action if a rental assistance application is pending.  
*R51 (Line 89.1) to R53 (Line 91.15) of the Side-by-Side*
- Bringing Minnesota in line with all but a handful of states by establishing a pre-eviction notice requirement.  
*R53 (Line 91.16) to R55 (Line 93.19) of the Side-by-Side*
- Establishing a Minnesota Stable Housing Mediation Grant Program.  
*R16 (Line 63.25) to R17 (Line 64.15) of the Side-by-Side*

In addition, among the other protections in the House language, Legal Aid especially recognizes and supports the need for expungement reform and addressing the assessment of non-rent fees, which often appear to be arbitrary and which serve merely to increase housing costs, further jeopardizing housing stability among low-income renters.

Finally, Legal Aid wishes to express its support for the establishment of a Manufactured Home Park Cooperative Purchase Program. *See Page R19 (Lines 66.16 to 67.7)*. Cooperative resident ownership provides significant benefits, not just to the individual homeowner-resident, but also to the community, because both it maintains housing affordability and community stability. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Elwood".

Supervising Attorney

c.c.: The Honorable Mike Sundin; The Honorable Michael Howard; The Honorable Tama Theis; The Honorable Samantha Vang  
The Honorable Torrey N. Westrom; The Honorable Gene Dornick; The Honorable Kari Dziedzic; The Honorable Eric Pratt  
Ms. Nancy Conley; Mr. Joel Hanson; Mr. Owen Wirth