

January 23, 2023

Chair Howard and members of the House Housing Finance and Policy Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on Rep. Her's HF 445. We also provided similar comments during the 2021 and 2022 Sessions.

Minnesota Realtors® was founded in 1919 and is a statewide business trade association with a membership of over 22,000 real estate professionals working with property owners and aspiring property owners in every corner of the state.

Minnesota Realtors® strongly supports the right of all Minnesotans to own, use, and transfer real property and our members are committed to offering equal professional service to all.

Minnesota Realtors® would like to share our concerns with HF 445, which would add, "participation in or requirements of a public assistance program," along with a new definition of "public assistance program," to Minn. Stat. 363A.09.

The language in this bill is extremely broad and it is unclear to us how it interacts with the numerous federal, state, and local assistance programs currently in existence and those that may be created in the future. The language also does not recognize that some government assistance programs may include requirements for a property owner that present challenging financial or administrative obligations.

We encourage the Legislature to focus instead on engaging with property owners to understand the administrative and financial challenges some voluntary programs pose and then address those challenges so programs can better meet the needs and expectations of both those seeking housing as well as housing providers.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony.

Sincerely,



Paul Eger
Senior Vice President, Governmental Affairs
Minnesota Realtors®