

Linda Soderstrom
Winona, MN 55987

April 8, 2024

The Honorable Lindsey Port
Chair, Housing and Homelessness Prevention Committee
3213 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Mike Howard
Chair, Housing Finance and Policy Committee
473 State Office Building
St Paul, MN 55155

Via email

Re: Support for S.F.2040/H.F.2271

Dear Chair Port and Chair Howard:

In July of 2023, FHPAP paid my deposit of \$1,000 at Washington Crossing in Winona Minnesota. They also paid \$500 for the first half month of rent at fair market while my Section 8 voucher was transitioning. This was my third displacement in 8 years. As a senior citizen, this was very impactful in a negative way to my health. Without this emergency rental assistance from FHPAP I would have been displaced at 74, with disabilities, gone homeless, and not gotten the lease at my current apartment. Without a place to apply Section 8 ~ I might have lost my voucher as well. I am extremely grateful to the FHPAP program for the help that I received.

In 2018 and 2016 when displaced twice in the Twin Cities, I also received emergency assistance (EA) and emergency general assistance (EGA) respectively from Hennepin County Department of Human Services. My voucher could have been in jeopardy all three times without this assistance. The private investors who displaced people by bowing out of the Section 8 Housing Choice voucher program -at will- rely upon the county to support these needs. They do not provide any relief or relocation funding for the hardships they cause. That is why FHPAP, emergency assistance and emergency general assistance are all very much needed to stabilize families and individuals. This assistance keeps us in our current homes. It can also support us moving forward.

Sincerely,

Linda Soderstrom