



March 23, 2023

Dear Chair Becker-Finn and Members of the Committee,

The Equity in Place coalition is writing to express our strong support for Representative Esther Agbaje's HF 0917, which would greatly expand much needed tenants protections across the state, the affirmative right to maintain and achieve the stability, safety, and dignity of their homes.

Equity in Place is a diverse group of strategic partners from organizations led by people of color and housing advocacy organizations. We believe that everyone in Minnesota deserves to live where they want to live and have access to opportunity.

We know our state is stronger when families, children and workers can put down roots in the neighborhoods they call home. But housing stability is still a far-away dream for many of the 620,000 renter households in Minnesota who all too often are exploited by their landlords. Tenants are increasingly likely to deal with an out-of-state corporation as their landlord, and their ability to request timely repairs, negotiate rent adjustments, and ultimately engage on equal terms has diminished

HF 0917 Tenants Rights Omnibus bill in its entirety gives tenants the affirmative right to pursue housing options without the fear of discrimination due to their use of vouchers or other sources of income, and to be able to access counsel when and if tenants find themselves in housing court. Also the much needed reform to our evictions system by ensuring we have a clear pre-eviction notice period and also are offering remedies for tenants with eviction expungement reform. By passing such a policy, we have the opportunity to rebalance the scales for renters and realize our vision of housing justice across our state. We look forward to continued partnership in passing this crucial policy that will have a real life impact in the lives of thousands of Minnesota families.

Equity in Place urges you to vote YES on HF 0917. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

*African Career, Education and Resource Inc (ACER)*

*The Alliance*

*Center for Urban & Regional Affairs at the University of Minnesota*

*CloseKnit*

*Community Stabilization Project*



*Harrison Neighborhood Association*

*Hope Community*

*Housing Justice Center*

*Jewish Community Action*

*Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers*

*MN STEP (Standing Together to End Poverty)*

*Minnesota Youth Collective*

*Native American Community Development Institute*

*New American Development Center*

*Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association*

*Pueblos de Lucha y Esperanza*

*Urban Homeworks*

*West Side Community Organization*