



February 14, 2024

Chair Howard
473 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155
651-296-7158



Dear Chair Howard and Members of the Committee,

COPAL writes in support of House File 2704, a bill to protect a renter's right to organize for dignified housing.

COPAL, Communities Organizing Latine Power and Action, is a member-based organization established in 2018 to improve the quality of life of Latine families. Over the past six years, COPAL has evolved to become a well-known grassroots organization that provides essential community services while advancing dignity in public policy.

@copalmn

COPAL's network includes over 350 active member-leaders and 43,000 organizational supporters across the state, particularly in the regions of Mankato, Rochester, and the Twin Cities. The vast majority of our constituents are renters, many of whom are acutely impacted by the national housing crisis. Therefore, COPAL is advocating for proposals that make our housing system more accessible, affordable, ethical, and livable.

House File 2704 allows tenants to organize peacefully without the threat of their roof being taken away. Such protection will improve the flow of information so that tenants know their existing legal and contractual rights, and are unafraid to exercise those rights in community with their neighbors.

This is a bill to protect free speech and association when the most basic necessity of housing faces threats to dignity and stability. We strongly encourage support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Francisco Segovia

Executive Director

