



Legal Services Advocacy Project
Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid
2324 University Avenue, Suite 101
St. Paul, MN 55114
651-842-6909

June 16, 2020

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

The Honorable Michael Howard
Vice Chair, Housing Finance and Policy Division
Minnesota House of Representatives
451 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Tama Theis
GOP Lead, Housing Finance and Policy Division
Minnesota House of Representatives
201 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: HF 82 - Providing Housing Assistance in Areas of Civil Unrest

Dear Chair Hausman, Vice Chair Howard, GOP Lead Theis, and Committee Members:

The Legal Services Advocacy Project (LSAP) is a statewide division of Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid, providing legislative and administrative advocacy on behalf of Legal Aid's clients, which include low-income Minnesotans, persons of color, indigenous persons, elders, and persons with disabilities. Among the many substantive areas on which LSAP advocates, housing and landlord-tenant matters are among the foremost.

LSAP writes in support of HF 82. The housing of our many of clients, as well as the communities in which they live, was destabilized in the protests that were precipitated by the murder of Mr. George Floyd. In addition, many of the businesses they own and patronize were harmed.

We appreciate HF 82's intent is to ensure that the community's fundamental character remains intact and the affordability of residential housing and commercial rent remains affordable as the community rebuilds, at least through end date certain specified in the bill. Long-term rental housing affordability and long-term small business viability will continue to be matters of intense discussion at the Capitol and elsewhere for at least the period up to the sunset of this bill. Hopefully, the community can be rebuild and, after the expiration of the requirements of HF 83, the community, the economy, and the market will rebound and we all will be in a better place.

Thank you for your consideration of LSAP's views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ron Elwood".

Ron Elwood
Supervising Attorney

c.c: The Honorable Hodan Hassan, Assistant Majority Leader, Minnesota House of Representatives