



CATHOLIC CHARITIES  
Twin Cities

**Catholic Charities at Elliot Park**  
1007 East 14th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55404  
612-204-8500 | cctwincities.org

March 27, 2023

Representative Mike Howard, Chair  
House Housing Finance & Policy Committee

RE: Omnibus Housing Bill (HF2335) & Investments in Supportive Housing

Dear Chair Howard,

On behalf of Catholic Charities Twin Cities, I write to thank you for including the Stable Housing Relief Fund and the Supportive Services Program in HF2335 and to encourage greater investments in these programs to aid in stabilizing supportive housing across Minnesota.

Catholic Charities is known as a regional leader in emergency shelter and direct services. We also manage nearly 1,000 units of permanent supportive housing for youth, adults and seniors, including veterans, people with disabilities, and individuals who have experienced long-term homelessness.

Our supportive housing programs were experiencing financial losses at a growing rate prior to the pandemic, driven largely by gaps in required but non-reimbursable services (e.g., 24/7 front desk staff) and the increasing needs of our residents, many of whom are coping with mental illness, substance use disorders and chronic health conditions.

The pandemic caused this shaky foundation to break, and we are now facing unsustainable losses of millions of dollars that prevent us from investing in the skilled, trauma-informed staff and routine property maintenance needed to best support our residents in maintaining safe, stable housing. As a result, we have been forced to shift privately raised dollars away from our emergency shelter services, effectively eroding funding for emergency services alongside the absence of supportive housing investments.

The Stable Housing Relief Fund recognizes the unique and unintended financial consequences of the pandemic on nonprofit housing providers like Catholic Charities and would help reset our foundation so that we can look ahead to providing more of the wraparound services our residents need and deserve. The Supportive Services Program would provide greater public investments moving forward to supplement the daily costs to operate supportive housing sites.

These programs offer critical funding for providers who are the safety net of Minnesota's housing continuum. We value your and the committee's attention to the long-term stability of supporting housing like the sites like those we operate. We encourage you to increase financial support for these programs as we work together to improve housing outcomes for Minnesotans most in need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wendy Underwood', written over a white background.

Wendy Underwood  
Vice President, Social Justice Advocacy & Engagement