



March 15, 2022

Dear Rep. Alice Hausman, Chair, and Members of the House Housing Finance & Policy Committee,

Down payment assistance funding, as included in HF 4269 - Agbaje, provides critical funding to support homeownership. Metro Cities policies have long supported state funds to address homeownership opportunities, including targeted funds to close homeownership disparities.

Funding of this program is tied to income and mortgage approval. Thus, funding of this proposal, as well as existing homeownership-focused state programs, guarantees affordability and is targeted to qualifying households.

Some cities work to employ modest funds, seeded with local dollars, to address closing costs and down payment assistance to first-time homebuyers. However, the state's traditional and critical role as a housing program funder is more adequately situated to meet these types of needs.

Metro Cities urges the committee to commit to state funding as a major and necessary component for the provision of housing. Current resource levels are insufficient to meet the needs in the metropolitan region and across the state. We encourage the Legislature to include significant housing dollars, including for down payment assistance, in its supplemental budget this session.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charlie Vander Aarde". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Charlie Vander Aarde  
Government Relations Specialist – Metro Cities