



January 24, 2023

To: Members of the House Housing Finance & Policy Committee

Re: HF445 (Her) Rental discrimination based on participation in public assistance prohibited

Dear Chair Howard and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to share **Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota's support of HF445**. Housing is a first priority in every Minnesotan's life, and prohibiting rental discrimination based on one's participation in public assistance will lead to more stable housing and healthier communities.

LSS is a provider of essential services across all 87 counties with more than 2,500 employees serving 1 in 65 Minnesotans every year. LSS provides housing services and support to help youth, adults, people with disabilities, families, older adults and veterans live healthier and more satisfying lives. We also work closely with housing developers and property owners to provide safe and stable housing for people we serve.

In this collaborative work providing emergency assistance, landlord support, eviction support and more, in communities across the state of Minnesota, LSS has gained first-hand knowledge on how these policies will lead to more stable housing and healthier communities.

We also know that racial disparities are significant among people experiencing homelessness. Additionally, our BIPOC neighbors face severe cost burdens related to housing and experience barriers to homeownership at disproportionate rates. LSS strongly urges the prioritization of policies that bring solutions to these long-standing social and racial inequities so that all Minnesotans may thrive in healthy, accessible and equitable communities.

Thank you, again, for this opportunity. Please contact Erin Sutton, LSS' Senior Director of Advocacy, at erin.sutton@lssmn.org if we may provide further information on this deeply important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Thueson", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Patrick Thueson
President
Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota