



DATE: March 21, 2024
RE: Letter of Support for HF 2666 (Hollins)
TO: Chair Noor & honorable members of the committee.

MICAH is committed to advancing social and economic opportunities so that communities throughout Minnesota can thrive. Access to financial stability and growth is a critical component of any flourishing community. Through our experience, we have seen how impactful guaranteed basic income projects and livable incomes can have in stabilizing people's housing in the community. **MICAH** believes that Minnesota must invest in guaranteed basic income models of flexible financial support to disrupt poverty, advance racial and gender equity and ensure everyone has a home that is safe, decent, accessible and affordable at 30% of their income (or less) and meets their needs in the community of their choice.

We encourage committee members to support HF 2666. This bill will enhance the state's ability to offer support that ensures people have the resources to afford childcare, transportation, job training, and accessible housing while maintaining pathways to financial independence.

Some facts about Basic Income:

- Basic Income consists of monthly, cash payments given directly to individuals with the intent to disrupt poverty, advance racial and gender equity, and support basic needs;
- It is unconditional, with no strings attached and no work requirements;
- It supplements, rather than replaces, the existing social safety net;
- It is time-limited;
- Communities are required to design their program with the people who would be accessing it and...
- Data tells us that basic income programs:
 - ✓ Alleviate barriers to full-time employment
 - ✓ Improves mental health outcomes
 - ✓ Improves infant and toddler developmental outcomes; and
 - ✓ Reduces the impact of unexpected economic shocks

GBI's are tested and demonstrably effective way to ensure Minnesotans have the income they need to increase their economic well-being. **We urge you to support HF 2666.**

If you have any questions regarding **MICAH's** support for HF 2666, please contact me at sue@micah.org

God's peace,

Sue Watlov Phillips, M.A.

Executive Director, MICAH