



May 1, 2024

Dear Chairs and Members of the Human Services Policy Conference Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on language contained on page R1A1 of the Article 1 side-by-side, which exempts group homes and assisted living facilities with a licensed capacity of six or fewer residents from municipal rental licensing. Metro Cities provided testimony on this language as it went through the committee process in the House and Senate and appreciates the chance to reiterate the association's position as the Conference Committee begins its work.

Metro Cities remains concerned with the language regarding local rental licensing in these omnibus bills. Residential group homes are an important and valued component of a community's housing stock. Municipal officials recognize and support the services that residential programs provide. Cities are responsible for safeguarding the health, safety, and welfare of residents in group homes as well as those living in other types of housing.

Municipal residential licensing ensures livability and safety standards for residents and allows a city to promptly respond and address conditions that may present health and safety concerns. As such, Metro Cities is concerned with exempting certain residential settings from local regulations which are designed and intended to protect the safety of residents and the community.

Cities are committed to working with our state partners at the Department of Human Services and Department of Health to achieve our shared goal of ensuring that group home and assisted living residents live in safe and well-maintained settings.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Lund', is positioned above the typed name.

Mike Lund
Government Relations Specialist
Metro Cities