



Letter of support for HF 2492

March 22, 2023

Dear Representative Cheryl Youakim, Chair, Representative Mary Frances Clardy, Vice Chair, and Members of the Minnesota House School Finance Committee

MICAHA strongly supports HF 2492

MICAHA has been advocating for much more permanent, truly affordable permanent housing for 35 years.

We are delighted to see a growing coalition supporting this bill and specifically we are delighted that young people are being given opportunities to learn construction skills, (which they may use for future employment opportunities) as they build homes that will be made available to low income families and families experiencing homelessness.

This bill expands the extremely successful Youthbuild program – a program that DEED has found has a more than 3-1 return on investment. If you have not seen it, I urge you to visit the home being built less than 10 minutes from the Capitol by 16–24-year-olds as part of the GAP-Youthbuild Program.

We believe this is a win-win-win situation:

1. Increases the number of owner-occupied homes available to low-income Minnesota families at a modest cost to taxpayers
2. Young people are being developing marketable skills that enable them to have solid, middle-class jobs.
3. A critical statewide need for more young people with construction skills is being addressed.

Thank you for your leadership in bring this bill forward.

God's peace,

Sue Watlov Phillips, M.A.

Executive Director, MICAHA