



MICAH Supports many of the provisions in the Tax Omnibus Bill

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony.

My name is Sue Watlov Phillips, Executive Director of MICAH- Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing, President of National Coalition For The Homeless (NCH). I have worked with people experiencing homelessness for over 53 years. Executive Director, Elim Transitional Housing (1982-2012). I experienced homelessness in the early 1970s.

Over ½ of MICAH's Board and staff have experienced homelessness and/or housing crises. 70% of our Board of Directors and Staff are from diverse communities. We work to ensure people who have experienced homelessness, housing crises, and/or housing discrimination are at every decision making table about their lives.

Our faith calls us to be a welcoming community, to love and treat others the way we want to be treated. MICAH members address the immediate needs of people in our community as we work together to change the structural causes of homelessness/ housing crises and to realize our mission to ensure everyone, without exception, has a safe, decent, accessible home that is affordable.

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MICAH Supports

- Full conformity to federal tax rules for the forgivable Paycheck Protection Program loans many businesses used to survive the COVID-19 pandemic
- Full conformity for federal pandemic unemployment benefits up to \$10,200
- Emphasizes affordable housing and workforce housing with a new tax credit to bring private money into the marketplace. Through various property tax reductions, the bill also incentivizes low-income rental development. Specifically, **thank you for establishing and funding the Affordable Housing Trust Fund at \$10 million annually.** Minnesota's lack of affordable homes impacts everyone, everywhere across our state. Housing production is not keeping up with demand and the loss of affordable homes is accelerating. The Affordable Housing Tax Credit is an opportunity to invest in a program intended to spur creativity and incentivize broader public participation. We fully endorse innovative public private partnerships like this one to ensure an adequate supply of housing to Minnesotans across income levels.

God's peace,
Sue Watlov Phillips, M.A.
Executive Director MICAH
President, National Coalition For The Homeless