



Dear Chair Gomez and Members of the Committee:

### **MICAH Supports HF 3200 and HF 3294**

MICAH's mission is to ensure everyone, without exception, has a safe, decent accessible home that is affordable to them.

Over half of MICAH's Board and staff have experienced homelessness, housing instability or discrimination and over 70% of our Board and staff are from diverse communities.

MICAH's members are actively involved in our community to address the immediate needs of people at risk of and/or experiencing homelessness and creating and maintaining affordable housing opportunities. Our primary goals are to prevent homeless and to have homes that are affordable for everyone.

Over 500,000 Minnesota Households are paying over 30% of their income for housing. Which means they are making choices between paying rent, buying food, clothing, paying unexpected bill, etc. and are constantly at risk of homelessness with the loss of income, an accident, health crisis, or emergency .

It is critical to invest in the entire Continuum to Housing to prevent homelessness and assist people with their immediate needs, so they may be re-housed, as quickly as possible, in our community. Significant increases in funding the ESP and Transitional Housing programs will strengthen the Continuum to Housing and balance the opportunities available to people at risk and experiencing homelessness.

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