Yingya Vang

From: Cary Lenore Walski <communications@clarehousing.org>

Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 9:18 AM

To: Yingya Vang **Subject:** Re. HF 601

Hi, there!

I'm writing to express my support for the following provisions of HF 601 which I know will be looked at in your committee today. The provisions I support are ...

- A \$100/month increase to the base rate payment to help landlords and service providers maintain and add critical Housing Support units across Minnesota, and
- A waiver on absence requirements to ensure residents aren't penalized for seeking needed healthcare, including substance use or mental health treatment.

You may not know this, but people who have affordable housing vouchers can lose their voucher and their housing if they are, for instance, in a nursing home for too long. We had a man at Clare Housing who nearly lost his housing when his foot didn't heal quickly enough after surgery. He was days away from losing his housing when he was finally declared capable of coming back home. What's even worse -- depending on the type of voucher, if the person loses that voucher, the unit they were living in becomes market rate, and cannot house someone using that particular voucher in the future, which is what experts call bananas. This waiver can really help people who are hurting due to physical or mental illness -- they need to be able to heal, and they need to know their home will be there when they return.

Thanks!

-Cary



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