

March 17, 2026

Co-Chair Michael Howard

Minnesota House Housing Finance and Policy
Committee

Chair Lindsey Port

Minnesota Senate Housing and Homelessness
Prevention Committee

Co-Chair Spencer Igo

Minnesota House Housing Finance and Policy
Committee

Re: Protecting Children from Housing Legal Matters (HF3639/Hussein, SF4145/Clark)

Co-Chair Howard, Co-Chair Igo, and Chair Port:

The Minnesota Legislature created the Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage (CMAH) to advise government on the needs of our constituents and support their participation in the resources of the state and economy. Our constituency comprises of Minnesotans who self-identify as African American or African Immigrant, Black American or Black Immigrant.

We write to request your support for HF3639/SF4145, a measure that would protect children from long-term economic and legal harm in the housing sector.

Unequal cultural and economic household resources shape different types of challenges and opportunities for Minnesota's children and families. Some children must take on grown-up roles as cultural intermediaries, helping their families navigate knowledge and language barriers. Others confront difficult realities of poverty with their families. The Minnesota data suggests that Black children endure housing instability at double the statewide rate and poverty at almost triple the state rate.

A good society strives to protect its innocents from harm and unnecessary hardship. HF3639/SF4145 protects children by preventing them from being ensnared in economic and legal troubles, the causes of which are beyond their control. The prohibition against naming a tenant's minor child in a lease or eviction complaint shields children from eviction records, helps secure better future housing access, and reduces childhood trauma and stigma.

We thank Representative Hussein and Senator Clark for bringing this legislation forward. We urge members of the House and Senate Housing Committees to pass HF3639/SF4145.

Sincerely,

Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage (CMAH)

The Minnesota Legislature empowered the Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage to ensure that people of African Heritage fully and effectively participate in and equitably benefit from the political, social, and economic resources, policies, and procedures of the State of Minnesota. Generally, the Council is charged with the responsibility of:

- *Advising the Governor and the Legislature on issues confronting People of African Heritage;*
- *Advising the Governor and the Legislature on statutes, rules, and revisions to programs to ensure that Black people have access to benefits and services provided to people in Minnesota;*
- *Serving as a liaison to the federal government, local government units and private organizations on matters relating to People of African Heritage in Minnesota;*
- *Implementing programs designed to solve problems of People of African Heritage when authorized by statute, rule, or order; and*
- *Publicizing the accomplishments of People of African Heritage and their contributions to the state.*