



**Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony
in support of HF601**

My name is Sue Watlov Phillips, Executive Director of MICAHA- 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 and I experienced homelessness in the early 1970s.

Over ½ of MICAHA'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. MICAHA members address the immediate needs of people in our community as we work together to change the structural causes of homeless, end homelessness and to realize our mission to ensure everyone, without exception, has safe, decent, accessible home that is affordable to them.

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MICAHA supports The Housing Support bill endorsed by Homes for All (HF601)

This bill includes:

- 1. \$100/month base rate increase for community living settings- help providers obtain and retain units in the program**
- 2. Language waiving temporary absence limits for residential behavioral health treatment or healthcare treatment.(Maintain stability for residents during crises)**

We also encourage the Committee to consider reducing the cost to residents of program, to 30% of their income, (currently they have to forgo all their income and just get a basic needs living allowance of about \$100/month). This is a barrier and a disincentive for people experiencing homelessness from fully utilizing this valuable housing program.

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