



**Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HF 443, HF 1118, HF 450, HF 567**

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.



### **MICAHA supports**

SHF 443 (Howard) Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing preserve loans and grant funding provided. ***This will help us preserve critical affordable housing units. This bill may prevent homelessness of residents: if NOAH units are bought, current residents may be evicted or rent may be raised and become unaffordable.***

HF 1118 (Agbaje) adding rehabilitation of naturally occurring affordable housing to allowable uses of housing infrastructure bonds. ***Many NOAH units need rehab and current owners do not have or are unwilling to rehab the units. This will assist in rehabbing existing NOAH units and maintaining their affordability.***

HF 450 (Richardson) Right to counsel provided in public housing eviction actions. ***Many people in public housing are elderly and/or may have a disability and need access to counsel to help them understand legal processes.***

HF 567 (Fischer) Housing discrimination testing funding provided, and money appropriated. ***Testing is critical to identify and address the discrimination and disparities in our housing market. This may assist in increasing equitable opportunities and choices for all Minnesotans.***

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