



May 2, 2024

Chairs Fischer and Hoffman and Members of the Human Services Policy Bill Conference Committee:

The League of Minnesota Cities appreciates the opportunity to provide comments outlining concerns about Article 1, sections 1 and 2 of S.F. 4399 that would exempt group homes governed by Minn. Stat. § 245D.02, subd. 4a and assisted living facilities defined in Minn. Stat. § 144G.45, subd. 3 from municipal rental licensing.

While not every city utilizes rental licensing, for those that do, it can be an important tool to ensure that habitability and livability standards are met for a city's residents, including residents living in group homes and assisted living facilities cited in the bill. Cities are generally the closest unit of government to the resident, and through rental licensure cities are often able to respond more quickly to address issues and concerns from residents related to the livability, safety, and conditions of their housing that may arise throughout the course of the year, beyond a yearly inspection by the licensing agency or county.

Group homes are a critical component of overall housing stock in our communities, and cities have a strong interest in safeguarding the health, safety, and welfare of their residents across all ranges of housing. We look forward to working legislators and stakeholders to find an approach that will offer residents an avenue to promptly address the conditions of their housing while ensuring that group homes and assisted living facilities can continue to serve residents in their communities of choice.

Thank you for your consideration of these concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brooke Bordson', written in a cursive style.

Brooke Bordson
League of Minnesota Cities

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Lightfoot', written in a cursive style.

Daniel Lightfoot
League of Minnesota Cities