



**Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony
in support of HF 1634**

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 HF 1634

This bill focuses some our HIB bonding resources to create and maintain affordable housing for people with the lowest income who have greatest need for housing that is affordable. The vast majority of people with incomes under 30% of median income do NOT need supportive housing.

Providing HIB bonding resources for housing for people under 30% of median income provides an opportunity for people in supportive housing, who no longer need services, a pathway into affordable units and will open up the supportive housing unit to another household. This HIB bonding bill will also allow for the development of more mixed use buildings and provide an opportunity for people in supportive housing, who no longer need services, to stay in their unit and then utilize a different unit in the building as a supportive housing unit for another household.

An increase in General obligation bonding is critical to rehab and maintain our valuable public housing asset throughout Minnesota.

God's peace,

Sue Watlov Phillips, M.A.

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