

Yingya Vang

From: Retirees <retirees@mnaflcio.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 12:49 PM
To: Yingya Vang
Cc: Sean Herring
Subject: HF-42 (Howard) and HF-315 (Howard)

Dear Committee Members:

The MN AFL-CIO Retiree Council submits this testimony to the committee to support the efforts of the Legislature's to consider and fund programs to support homeless senior citizens who are the fastest growing demographic becoming homeless often due to one critical health experience. The goal of our organizations is to support seniors to be able to stay in their own homes and "age in place".

Minnesota State Retiree Council, AFL-CIO, Position on Housing Issues:

Whereas, everyone deserves a home in a safe and livable neighborhood, and many people have no home or have to pay way too much for their home compared to their income and/or have to live in blighted and dangerous neighborhoods, and

Whereas, many people cannot afford to live near their jobs and essential services, and

Whereas, the private housing market fails to provide homes for all and often creates horrible poor living conditions for people with limited income, and

Whereas, many workers do not make high enough wages to afford a decent livable home and need help with housing until all Minnesotans make a living wage, and

Whereas, retirees on fixed incomes are feeling pressure to maintain their housing and seniors represent a fast-growing segment of the homeless population,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Minnesota State Retiree Council, AFL-CIO, supports the following:

1 - Because housing is a state-wide issue, all levels of government should renew their commitments to affordable housing and safe neighborhoods including vastly expanded government funding commitments, including funding for assisted living and Medicaid for nursing home care, removal of income and racial barriers to decent housing and creating of innovative programs to meet the complex housing needs of all Americans.

2 - New sources of funding must be tapped including profitable corporations such as banks, S&Ls and hospitals that employ low-paid workers must make significant contributions to fund affordable housing.

3 - Strong community based organizations must be a component of local housing decision making. Support for these advocates for affordable housing and livable neighborhoods is

needed, especially the National Low income Housing Coalition, the Minnesota Housing Partnership, The Homes for All initiative, and Make Homes Happen Policy Agenda.

Thank you for your work on this important work,

Ken McInnis, President
MN AFL-CIO Retiree Council