



**Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony supporting a diversity of Tiny/Micro Home Models**

My name is Sue Watlov Phillips, Executive Director of MICAH- 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 MICAH'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. MICAH 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.

### **MICAH supports a diversity of Tiny and Micro Home Models**

**MICAH and the National Coalition For The Homeless were involved in the development and are very supportive of the Community First model of the Tiny Homes community in Austin Texas, Tiny Homeownership in Detroit Michigan, and MICAH is a collaborator on the Envision model of tiny homes in the Twin Cities.**

**It is critical, people experiencing homelessness are key decision makers in designing, creating and implementing their solutions to the housing crises. Community first models with tiny homes provides a sense of security and belonging in a cooperative, supportive, and interdependent environment. The importance of a familiar community is critical for many people experiencing homelessness to successfully transition into a homes that are affordable as they find stability, belonging and purpose in life.**

**To prevent and end homelessness, we must change our State Building Codes and Local Zoning Codes (as we did in Minneapolis) to expand the diversity of housing opportunities that are affordable in our communities across the State.**

God's peace,

*Sue Watlov Phillips*

Sue Watlov Phillips, M.A.

Executive Director MICAH

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