

March 2, 2021

Representative Jennifer Schultz, Chair
Committee on Human Services Finance and Policy
Via electronic delivery

Re: Support for HF601 (Housing Support)

Chair Schultz and Members of the Committee:

Project for Pride in Living (PPL) supports HF601, a bill that strengthens our state's Housing Support program and supports pathways to stable housing. We thank Representative Her for her leadership on this issue.

PPL builds, manages, and services 1,600 units of affordable housing throughout the Twin Cities serving low-income and formerly homeless individuals and families. We see every day, the most effective way to promote long-term self-reliance is by stabilizing the economics of a household and providing affordable housing. Last year, PPL's Housing Support program served 177 individuals and 96% of individuals maintained stable housing for 24 months or more.

Housing Support is an established program that has successfully helped thousands of Minnesotans move out of homelessness and into stable housing, but it is not without challenges. Current funding rates have not kept pace with the average cost of rent. They are not enough to effectively run the program and makes it difficult for landlords to participate when we are already facing an affordable housing crisis. Limits on absence requirements can also create barriers for tenants in need of healthcare treatment, like substance use or mental health treatment. Through the program, Antione was given the resources he needed to have a safe place to stay, remain sober, go to school, and gain custody of his son. In Antione's words, "PPL has saved my life, I don't know what I would do without the program."

HF601 would increase the monthly base rate funding for Housing Support, providing needed resources for landlords and service providers like us to maintain and add critical housing units. It would also waive temporary absence requirements to make sure residents can access needed healthcare treatment without fear of losing their housing in the process.

As our state works to address the current housing and homelessness crisis, HF601 provides the tools and resources to promote greater stability for tenants as well as landlords. We ask for your support.

Sincerely,



Paul Williams
President and CEO
Project for Pride in Living

