



(651) 280-2076

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451 Lexington Pkwy N.  
Saint Paul, Minnesota  
55104

February 13, 2023

Re: Support for SF1367/HF1440

Dear Chair Howard & Members of the House Housing Finance and Policy Committee,

On behalf of the Saint Paul Promise Neighborhood, we are writing to support SF1367/HF1440. This bill supports the Housing Finance Agency's family homeless prevention and assistance program. These emergency rental assistance funds are critical to meeting the needs of our families and scholars to maintain housing stability, especially during the school year.

As a community-based cradle-to-career initiative directly serving parents and children in the Promise Neighborhood, we know firsthand that evictions are very high. There's an urgency to deploy resources to keep our families housed. For example, in December 2022 alone, we paid out approximately \$36,000 in emergency assistance to our families to help keep them stable. Of that amount, \$23,000 was specially applied to rent, and \$7,000 was applied to utilities. We provide this emergency assistance to our families in recognition that many are one crisis away from losing housing stability, affecting family conditions and children's development.

As an educational partnership that puts children in the Frogtown, Rondo, and Summit-University neighborhoods of Saint Paul on the pathway to college and career success, we need to keep our families housed as part of our strategy to close Minnesota's worse in the nation education opportunity gap.

The trajectory of a life should not be indicated by a child's zip code, race, or economic status. Together with our partners, accessing and providing emergency assistance to our families in crisis, we can promote racial and economic justice so every single child in Saint Paul can live a great life, pursue the career of their choice and build wealth for their family.

*(Over)*

Saint Paul Promise Neighborhood strongly supports SF1367/HF1440 and urges its inclusion as part of any legislation moving forward this session.

If I may be of further assistance or provide additional information about the importance of this appropriation, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you in advance for your time and attention to this critical issue for our families and scholars.

Sincerely,



Tiffany Scott Knox

Saint Paul Promise Neighborhood Director



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