

March 3, 2021

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

Re: Support for HF601 (Housing Support)

Chair Schultz and Members of the Committee:

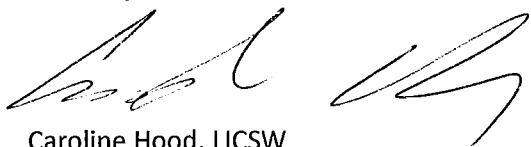
RS EDEN supports HF601, a bill that strengthens our state's Housing Support program and supports pathways to stable housing. We thank Representative Her for her leadership on this issue.

Our organization provides support services programs and affordable housing to over 400 individuals and families living with a disability who were previously homeless. 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. Limits on absence requirements also create barriers for tenants in need of the healthcare treatment, like substance use or mental health treatment.

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. RS EDEN has extremely low barrier entry programs and housing. We serve community members who experience multiple personal and systematic barriers to housing stability including homelessness, justice system involvement, substance use, and physical and mental health disabilities. In 2020 RSE provided housing support services to 586 adults and children. The waiver of absence requirements will increase access to needed behavioral health services that are essential to interrupt the cycle of homelessness.

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

Sincerely,



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