



Minnesota House Committee on Housing Finance and Policy
453 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

March 9, 2021

Chair Hausman and Members of the Committee,

Homeownership Minnesota (HOM) is a statewide coalition of 13 member organizations focused on elevating affordable homeownership for all Minnesotans. HOM views affordable homeownership as a solution to Minnesota's housing shortage and as a necessary step toward closing wealth disparities and addressing racial inequities. HOM advocates to increase public investment and advance policy and practice reforms towards the preparation of homeowners and the production and preservation of affordable homeownership opportunities. We are writing in support of HF 979 and HF 1635:

- HF 979 – Minnesota Housing Finance Agency challenge grant program funding provided, and money appropriated.
The Economic Development and Housing Challenge Program is the primary statewide funding source supporting the production and preservation of affordable homeownership opportunities. Minnesota must make significant investments in the development of affordable homes to create intergenerational wealth and close the racial homeownership gap.
- HF 1635 – Homeownership education, counseling, and training program funding provided, and money appropriated.
The Homeownership Education, Counseling, and Training (HECAT) Program provides homebuyer education and pre-purchase 1-on-1 training to ensure families are prepared for successful, long term homeownership. Additionally, HECAT funding helps provide much needed foreclosure prevention counseling to preserve affordable homeownership.

We look forward to working with you to increase the production and preservation of affordable homeownership units across the state and prepare more families for successful homeownership.

Sincerely,

Cristen Incitti, President & CEO, Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota, HOM Co-Chair
Kathy Wetzel-Mastel, Executive Director, PRG, HOM Co-Chair

City of Lakes Community Land Trust
Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Housing Services
Greater Metropolitan Housing Corporation
Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota
Minnesota Community Land Trust Coalition
Minnesota Homeownership Center
Neighborhood Development Alliance

NeighborWorks Home Partners
Northcountry Cooperative Foundation
One Roof Community Housing
PRG
Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity
Urban Homeworks