



March 7, 2022

Dear Chair Abeler, Vice Chair Benson, and Members of the Committee,

Missions Inc. Programs strongly supports SF 3140 (Senjem), which provides urgently needed emergency shelter capital funding. Missions Inc. provides a collaborative community and safe space where people are empowered to heal and transform their lives. Our vision is a world where every person realizes their worth and lives with dignity free from addiction and abuse. In pursuit of that vision, we provide shelter and supportive services to victims of domestic violence, including an Immigrant and Refugee program; supportive housing and detoxification/withdrawal management for individuals experiencing substance use disorder; and operate an all-male skilled nursing facility. Our programs are located in Hennepin and Ramsey Counties.

Like many organizations operating emergency shelters, our efforts are focused on meeting the immediate basic needs of our clients. Many sources of funding explicitly exclude capital expenses such as construction, renovation, and furnishing – making these projects difficult to fund and often deferred. The capital investment in emergency shelter facilities proposed in SF 3140 would allow providers to acquire, improve, or expand life-saving services to Minnesotans experiencing homelessness. For example, at Missions Inc. Programs, our capital projects include renovating our 86-bed supportive housing program from shared bedrooms to single-occupancy bedrooms. The need for private living spaces was brought into sharp relief by the COVID-19 pandemic but even before then we recognized the challenges shared bedrooms presented to the privacy, dignity, safety, and mental health of our residents.

Every member of our community deserves a safe place to live. It is nearly impossible to address issues of substance use disorder or domestic violence without the basic stability of housing. We therefore urge you to support SF 3140 and its crucial investment in emergency shelter facilities. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Katy Daniels, MSW, LGSW  
Executive Director  
Missions Inc. Programs