



MICAHA's Testimony on SF 3259

This bill has some potential approaches to address Minnesota's housing challenges through modernizing the state's housing policies.

This approach addresses several key areas where Minnesota's housing policies are increasing costs and preventing the creation of needed starter homes and a diversity of housing options in our communities.

We agree with others that SF 3259 may Increase Housing Access and Affordability:

- Updates Minnesota's land use practices.
- Stops mandates for luxury material upgrades and other building code conflicts that drive costs.
- Restores reasonable homeowner choice on home, garage, and lot size – allowing starter home and diversity of other housing options.
- Reduces lot costs while ensuring that local governments can adequately fund infrastructure, parks and trails.
- Ends "zoning by loophole" and aligns local controls to comprehensive plans.

Our concerns include:

- a. Ensuring Coordination with Communities on local control over Zoning and planning**
- b. High quality materials are used in construction to ensure high quality housing for the long term (at least 50 years.)**
- c. Housing developed meets the high energy efficiency as we work to reduce the 40% emissions coming from our homes and the negative impact it has on our Climate.**

Recommendations: Please review MHP's Webinar

A Better Building Code: Recommendations for Increasing Housing Resilience and Racial Equity for Minnesota Renters.

MICAHA's mission is to ensure everyone, without exception, has a safe, decent accessible home that is affordable to them.

Over half of MICAHA's Board and staff have experienced homelessness, housing instability or discrimination and over 70% of our Board and staff are from diverse communities.

MICAHA's members are actively involved in our community to address the immediate needs of people at risk of and/or experiencing homelessness and creating and maintaining affordable housing opportunities. Our primary goals are to prevent homeless and to have homes that are affordable for everyone.

Over 550,000 Minnesota Households are paying over 30% of their income for housing. Which means they are making choices between paying rent, buying food, clothing, paying unexpected bill, etc. and are constantly at risk of homelessness with the loss of income, an accident, health crisis, or emergency .

God's peace,

Sue Watlov Phillips, M.A.

Executive Director MICAHA and President, National Coalition For The Homeless