



Accessible Space, Inc.

March 20, 2023

Senator Sandra Pappas
Chair, Senate Capital Investment Committee
Minnesota Senate Building
Room 2113
95 University Avenue West
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Pappas and Members of the Committee:

Since our founding in 1978, Accessible Space, Inc. (ASI), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization headquartered in St. Paul, Minnesota, has been a pioneer and industry leader by creating more than 160 accessible, affordable housing communities in 31 states. ASI has made independent community living a reality for low-income adults with physical disabilities, seniors, and veterans. ASI's work ensures that these vulnerable populations have access to safe, affordable, accessible housing.

ASI requests your support of SF1403 for \$1,150,000 to provide critically needed Low Income Housing Improvements for Individuals with Disabilities in St. Paul, Stillwater, and Roseville, Minnesota.

The mission of ASI is to provide housing with care for individuals with physical disabilities and brain injuries, as well as seniors and veterans. This mission is accomplished through the development, management, and ownership of accessible, affordable housing, assisted living and rehabilitation services. The **locations we are seeking assistance for include:**

- **Iglehart Home: 6 Households** | 814 Iglehart Ave., Saint Paul, MN
- **Selby Home: 6 Households** | 825 Selby Ave., Saint Paul, MN
- **Hillcrest Apartments: 24 Households** | 1370 Curve Crest Blvd, Stillwater, MN
- **Henry Courts II: 10 Households** | 135 - 154 Western Ave. S., St. Paul, MN
- **Roselawn Village 22 Households** | 1074 Roselawn Ave. W., Roseville, MN

Many of our housing residents are able to seek and maintain employment, attend college, and participate in local community events alongside their able-bodied neighbors within the community. Your support for improvements will help ASI preserve and leverage its limited and restricted Replacement Reserve funding for ongoing maintenance needs and the continued provision of Reasonable Accommodations and Modifications to residential units and common areas to ensure residents have full and equal access to the housing. Additionally, this funding will significantly reduce maintenance expenses, prevent high-cost emergency repairs, and reduce the need for increases in the Contract Rents in the state/HUD rental assistance contract which keeps resident rents affordable.

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Please support ASI's request of \$1,150,000 in **SF1403** to provide these critically needed affordable housing improvements for individuals with disabilities. This investment will ensure the long-term preservation and success of the accessible, affordable housing communities for the extremely-low to very low-income individuals with disabilities in the East Metro. Your help will sustain continued access to safe and sanitary housing with reliable, barrier-free access to/from their independent living apartment community.

In advance, I thank you for your consideration and for your advocacy for Minnesota's most vulnerable populations.

Sincerely,



Stephen Vander Schaaf
President/CEO