



March 1, 2023

Dear Chair Port and Members of the Housing and Homelessness Prevention Committee,

On behalf of the Homes for All coalition, we write in support of SF 1471, the Lead Safe Homes bill. Homes for All represents over 270 organizations across the state that advocate for safe, accessible, stable, and affordable housing across the housing continuum. Our coalition represents the full continuum of housing, from services for people experiencing homelessness, to permanent supportive housing, to affordable rental options, to homeownership opportunities for Minnesotans.

For us, housing is about more than just focusing on affordability, as Minnesotans also deserve housing that is stable and accessible. SF 1471 is a critical piece to ensuring people have access to healthy, safe housing.

Consider the evidence below:

- Lead poisoning occurs after lead builds up in the body, often over months of exposure. Lead poisoning can cause coma, convulsions, and even death in children.
- Even at lower levels, lead is never safe. Lead exposure in any amount can cause reduced educational attainment, hypertension, anemia, and impair brain development in children.
- In Minnesota, increased lead exposure is correlated with poverty, with children living in poverty two to three times more likely to have elevated blood lead levels than their peers.
- It costs \$2,500 to test and encapsulate lead in paint, but it costs up to \$100,000 per year for every child who becomes disabled by lead.

This bill is an easy way to ensure Minnesotans have a healthy place to live, which is a critical component of safe, accessible and stable housing. We urge you to support SF 1471.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Michael Dahl
Public Policy Director, HOME Line
Homes for All Policy Co-Chair

Annie Shapiro
Advocacy Director, MinnCAP
Homes for All Policy Co-Chair