

Thursday, March 30, 2023



**RE: Bring it Home Rental Assistance & Supportive Housing in Housing Omnibus Bill (SF 2566)**

Dear Chair Port and members of the Housing and Homeless Prevention Committee,

Thank you for your hard work on this year's housing omnibus bill. This bill is a massive investment across the housing continuum that will move the state forward.

Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative supports this bill. Beacon is a non-profit that creates homes for those with the lowest income, maintains quality housing, and organizes so all people have a home. We are also a lead organization in the Bring it Home Minnesota campaign.

We applaud your inclusion of rental assistance as envisioned by the Bring it Home, Minnesota campaign (SF11). We share your commitment that rental assistance is one of the primary solutions to the housing crisis that our state urgently needs. We know that the lack of ongoing resources in your budget target made it difficult to include this needed resource.

Rental assistance requires ongoing funding, and we support your creative solution of funding it through a metro-wide ¼ sales tax. This new funding source will create almost 3,000 new vouchers in the metro that are desperately needed. By matching that funding with appropriations for greater Minnesota, you also wisely recognize the statewide need. These 6,000 new vouchers will be a transformational first step in creating a Minnesota rental assistance program that can someday serve everyone who needs it.

We also thank you for including \$40 million, as requested by the Governor, to start a new program to strengthen supportive housing. Beacon is a leading provider of supportive housing. These new resources will fill funding gaps that providers currently carry, like 24/7 front desk, enhanced security services, and on-site service coordinators. These services are core components of the wraparound services provided by Beacon and other supportive housing providers.

Establishing this new supportive housing fund will promote safe, stable housing options for vulnerable residents in our communities and lower the barriers to creating more supportive housing in the state.

Thank you again for all of your hard work on this bill and we look forward to continuing to work with you on these provisions.

Thank you,

Ben Helvick Anderson  
Vice President of Policy and Organizing  
Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative