

March 30, 2023



Re: SF 2566, Senate Housing and Homelessness Prevention Omnibus Bill

To: Members of the Senate Housing and Homelessness Prevention Committee

Dear Chair Port and Committee Members,

Founded by parents of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in 1946, The Arc Minnesota is a statewide nonprofit advocacy organization that promotes and protects the human rights of individuals with IDD, supporting them and their families in a lifetime of full inclusion and participation in their communities. We are a chapter of The Arc of the United States, the largest national community-based organization advocating for people with IDD and their families.

I write today on behalf of The Arc Minnesota to thank you for the inclusion of the accessible housing policy changes in the Senate Housing and Homelessness Prevention Omnibus Bill (SF 2566). This provision aims to address the lack of affordable, accessible housing for people with disabilities in Minnesota—including veterans and older adults. As you have heard in this committee, people with disabilities are experiencing a housing crisis in our state due to the lack of affordable, accessible housing. For many, this crisis pushes them into costly congregate settings, or they experience homelessness due to the lack of accessible housing.

Additionally, thank you for the inclusion of Bring It Home rental assistance program funding. Many Minnesotans with disabilities can only remain in their own homes with rental assistance. This change, along with the accessible housing change, will ensure more Minnesotans with disabilities can live where they choose and remain in their communities. This investment helps us build a more inclusive Minnesota.

Thank you, Chair Port, for expanding the housing conversation to include accessible housing. We are grateful for your commitment to inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of life.

Sincerely,

Julia Page
Public Policy Director