



## **March 6, 2023**

MICAHA has been advocating and working to end homelessness for 35 years, as we create welcoming communities to ensure everyone, without exception, has a safe, decent, accessible home (rental or homeownership) that is affordable at their income and meets their needs.

MICAHA is writing to express our strong support for SF 1693. This bill increases funding for Youthbuild to \$5 million over the biennium.

We hope you will also support a new appropriation of \$1 million, providing 20 grants of \$50,000 each to help high schools already building homes to build homes for people experiencing and at risk of homelessness.

This has the triple value of

- a. Increasing the number of truly affordable homes for people experiencing homelessness
- b. Providing new opportunities for home ownership, thus decreasing the wealth gap and
- c. Providing opportunities for high school students to learn valuable, marketable skills.

Thank you for your leadership and bringing this bill forward.  
Together, we can Bring Minnesota Home NOW!

God's peace,  
Sue Watlov Phillips, M.A.  
Executive Director MICAHA