



March 16, 2023

Members of the Labor Committee
Minnesota State Senate
Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Ave. W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Re: SUPPORT SF 2471

Dear Members,

Minnesota Family Council represents many people of faith and faith communities across our state, and on their behalf, **we urge you to support SF 2471.**

Minnesota is home to diverse property-owning religious communities. Much of this property is often unused, with the community's activities taking place in a building that is a fraction of the land's footprint. These unused resources have spurred creative ideas within faith communities on how the land could benefit the community at large.

Faith communities are sensing a calling to provide homes and relationships to those who are chronically homeless. The Settled team seeks to repurpose unused sacred land to provide homes for marginalized people. We often consider poverty to be sourced from a lack of physical resources, but the problem of chronic homelessness is strongly linked to a lack of relationship. The work that Sacred Settlements is doing to provide both physical resources and relationships holistically meets the need of people who have been chronically homeless.

We ask the legislature to consider how Minnesotans who live in a faith community can use their religious freedom to support neighbors in need. Faith communities already have the right to express their religious beliefs through the protections of the First Amendment. Sacred Settlements communities are just a creative expression of love that is permissible through the First Amendment.

Minnesota Family Council supports the beautiful extension of relationships, housing, and love through religious expression to an often-forgotten group of people in our state, the chronically homeless. Please vote 'yes' on SF 2471.

Regards,

Rebecca Delahunt
Acting Director of Public Policy