

Valerie Roy, Resident of a local Sacred Settlement

Testifying in favor of S.F. 2471.

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Mad'am Chair and members of this committee:

I'm Valerie Roy aged 53 & I've lived half my life in vans cars & school busses. I've done everything to live right - I'm sober and have my BA and never have been convicted of crime or had an eviction or faced foreclosure, but unfortunately that did not save me from being episodically short term homeless between the ages of 12-25 & until now, 11 years long term homeless; add 2,600 resumes that have not procured professional work, and I proved it's not what you know it's who you know.

Now, I live in a beautiful tiny home. I have access to the church which I can use as an extension of my tiny home and I have good neighbors. For the first time in 11 years I have a community around me. Supported by this community I have many more opportunities to network, to make friends and to heal from trauma. This bill would create this opportunity for many other Minnesotans who currently live in cars; but worse off in tents.

This tiny house opportunity has been life changing, thank you for your interest finding solutions to chronic homelessness. Especially since I would have faced another Minnesota winter in a van; I can only get better from here because living in a car is physically painful. My quality of life is on the rise. Now I'm valued in this community, I'm making friends and I have a new nick name; before I was forgotten and isolated.

I'm glad you're interested in this model, it's a big step up from the nasty shelters. I thought I'd die in the old Dorothy Day shelter as when I arrived there was a bed lottery. This tiny house model is being considered all over the country and I'm glad that our state, Minnesota is interested in this

deeply affordable housing solution. Its made a big difference in my life to live in a stable home again. I hope in the future this can make the same changes for many others. Please support this bill It will make life saving changes for many people.