

Re: SF 4779 (Sen. Marty)/ HF 4583 (Rep. Perez-Vega)

This is important legislation for the people and communities in Ramsey County.

While it addresses various aspects of solving the homeless issues, the most affordable solution is prevention. More can be done with “diversion” programs.

This includes addressing the root causes and finding sustainable solutions. It may also include further systems changes and new policies.

The Courts, legal systems, and interfaces with Human Services needs accountability where they may be root causes.

It is true that many homeless people need jobs and training to be less dependent on shelters and services. Some state agencies have started to address this. More can be done.

Since the Most Affordable Homes are those owned for a long time by seniors including those with no mortgages, solutions should address costs of maintenance and repairs that continue to rise because of increased costs of materials and labor.

Homeowners who are Seniors and/or persons with disabilities continue to be the targets of developers and others including those receiving government funds because of the huge profits they can make. **These homeowners can't be housed any cheaper, and adverse actions to take their homes and make them homeless - is a death sentence.**

The State should help residents who are seniors and/or persons with disabilities –

- 1) Preserve their naturally occurring affordable housing so they can age in place, thrive, and in preventing them from becoming homeless and in saving their lives.**
- 2) Expedite and prioritize financial and other assistance first to seniors and persons with disabilities.**

Solutions also include:

- 1) Home Heroes Act: HF 2614/ SF 2728 – delete all version**
- 2) Home Heroes Act – Legacy: HF 4620/ SF 4642**

Please support amending SF 4779 (Sen. Marty)/ HF 4583 (Rep. Perez-Vega) to include:

- Prioritizing/expediting assistance and services for seniors and persons with disabilities.**

Please consider the need for further legislation that provides other solutions.

Thank you for your understanding and consideration of the need to save the lives of seniors and persons with disabilities in your communities and in Minnesota.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Lee, Pres., Exec. Dir.
Children's Hope Intl/ R & R Family Ctrs,
APAHC – the Housing Consortium
And others