



March 7, 2024

Members of the Committee on Housing and Homelessness Prevention:

CAPI, a service organization in Brooklyn Center dedicated to guiding refugees and immigrants in their journey toward self-determination and social equality, is pleased to offer our support for SF3964 (Mitchell) a bill to expand housing options at all levels of affordability throughout Minnesota by allowing the production of homes of all types and densities.

On-site we have both a food shelf and a comprehensive basic needs benefits center. Month after month, we see an increased need from our community. We served nearly 400,000 pounds of food to our neighbors last year and we are on pace to serve even more this year.

Our neighbors are experiencing financial hardships across every column of their budget. That is why we are proud members of the newly formed Nourish MN coalition, a group of nonprofits advocating for policies that would provide greater economic security for more Minnesotans – including housing and childcare affordability and access to transit. With housing costs rising and pandemic-era financial supports long expired, housing affordability rises to the top as an impediment to food – and financial – security for our neighbors.

SF3964 would help address this by allowing the market to drive housing development, including the production of more affordable housing options throughout our state. Such policies have been proven to help keep rents and mortgages more affordable – an important goal with recent reports showing that half of Minnesota renters struggle to afford rent, and fewer Minnesotans owning homes.

For these reasons, we encourage your support of SF3964, which would build on the historic investments in affordable housing made last year and make a real and lasting difference for our neighbors and their families.

Sincerely,

John Blamo

Director of Basic Needs