

To: Housing and Homelessness Prevention Committee

Date: 03/19/2024

ATTN: Chair Port

Subject: Letter of Support of S.F 4704. Recommendation of the Workgroup on Expediting Rental Assistance Implementation for improving approval times for the family homelessness prevention and assistance program, the emergency assistance program, and emergency general assistance.

I fully support S.F 4704 and the companion H. F. 4556. I am an immigrant who has lived in Minnesota for over 20 years. We all know of the disparities and the systems in place against those who need help in getting affordable housing or the barriers to getting assistance. I feel this bill would help those who are desperately in need. Unfortunately, in greater Minnesota where I lived, the challenges are far greater.

I was once homeless not because I wanted to be, but because of a doctor whom I trusted performed a surgery she had no idea how to perform. Before I knew it, I was out of funds trying to fix it. Little did I know that the hospital protected her and there I was, out of money and thrown out of my house. The Landlord said, "If I can't pay, then I can't stay here." When I went to my county to ask for help, I had little to no help. When I got "some help," I was given the wrong information, time ran out, and my family was kicked out. I had no time to even challenge the mistake made. Ultimately, I and my family paid the price.

There are many people out there like me. This is why expediting rental assistance programs would be key in helping many people. This is a great bill, and I could have used it during my own time of need.

Madam Chair, Committee let us take care of our people. Let us get S.F 4704 done.

Thank you for your time.

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