



March 4, 2024

Chair Hoffman and Members of the Senate Human Services Committee:

The League of Minnesota Cities appreciates the opportunity to provide comments outlining concerns about SF 3839 (Boldon) that would exempt group homes governed by Minn. Stat. § 245A.02, subd. 14(b) from municipal rental licensing.

Rental licensing is an important tool to ensure that habitability and livability standards are met for a city's residents, including residents living in group homes licensed under Minn. Stat. § 245A.02, subd. 14(b). Cities are generally the closest unit of government to the customer. Through rental licensure cities are often able to respond more quickly to address issues and concerns from residents related to the livability, safety, and conditions of their housing that may arise throughout the course of the year, beyond a yearly inspection by the licensing agency or county.

Group homes are a critical component of overall housing stock in our communities, and cities have a strong interest in safeguarding the health, safety, and welfare of their residents across all ranges of housing. We look forward to working with Senator Boldon and other legislators and stakeholders to find an approach that will offer residents an avenue to address the conditions of their housing while ensuring that group homes can continue to serve residents in their communities of choice.

Thank you for your consideration of these concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Bordson", written in a cursive style.

Brooke Bordson
League of Minnesota Cities

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Lightfoot", written in a cursive style.

Daniel Lightfoot
League of Minnesota Cities