March 1, 2024

Dear Chair Hoffman and Members of the Senate Human Services Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SF 3839 – Boldon, that would exempt group homes governed by Minnesota Statutes § 245A.02, subdivision 14(b) from municipal rental licensing.

Residential group homes are an important component of a community's housing stock. Municipal officials recognize and support the services that residential programs provide and are responsible for safeguarding the health, safety, and welfare of residents in group homes as well as other types of housing.

Municipal residential licensing ensures livability and safety standards for residents and allows a city to promptly respond and address conditions that may present health and safety concerns. As such, Metro Cities is concerned with language in the bill that would exempt certain residential programs from local regulations for residential property that are designed and intended to protect the safety of residents and the community.

We look forward to working with the author and other stakeholders on a bill that can meet the needs of group homes and the residents they serve.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

Mike Lund

Government Relations Specialist

Michael Lune

Metro Cities