



MINNESOTA CHAPTER

Senator Tou Xiong, Chair
State and Local Government
May 1, 2025

Chair Xiong and State and Local Government Committee Members,

On behalf of the National Association of Social Workers, MN Chapter (NASW-MN), we are writing in support of SF2229 and the amendment. This proposal creates modest statewide expectations for communities and housing development in order to address the significant housing shortage in Minnesota. *This is a statewide problem in need of a statewide solution.*

NASW-MN is the largest membership organization of professional social workers in our state, representing about 2000 social workers. The primary mission of the social work profession is to enhance human well-being and help meet the basic needs of all people. We are called to examine and address forces that negatively impact a person's environment (NASW Code of Ethics).

Social workers understand that securing housing is the first step in resolving other crises. For example, unstable housing prevents family reunification, contributes to poor academic outcomes, adds anxiety and stress to clients living with mental illness, and is a deterrent to those who want to leave violent households.

We believe that shelter is a basic need, and every human deserves the dignity of housing. Yet, this is becoming out of reach for more and more Minnesotans. We are over 100,000 units short in our state, and the average price of a home in Minnesota is \$500,000.

NASW-MN joined the Yes to Home! coalition because we believe that transforming current practices is necessary to address the housing crisis in Minnesota. When cities require homeowner associations, specific aesthetics that are designed to create uniformity rather than building safety, or more than one parking space, the cost of building housing goes up. We need to build smaller homes and duplexes in new developments and re-developments across our state in order to serve the wide variety of housing needs across the state.

We appreciate your service and work on this important issue. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Karen E. Goodenough, PhD, LGSW
Executive Director
NASW-MN

Jenny Arneson, MSW, LGSW
Legislative Consultant
NASW-MN