



African American Leadership Forum

SUPPORT FOR SF4022 – Minnesota Constitutional Amendment for Housing

February 10, 2025

Senator Lindsay Port

Chair, Committee on Housing and Homelessness Prevention

95 University Avenue W.

Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3213

St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Port and members of the Committee on Housing and Homelessness Prevention:

The African American Leadership Forum (AALF) is a movement of more than 5,000 African American leaders, institutions, allies, and systems that come together to collaborate and champion solutions that improve the lives and experience of African Americans in Minnesota. For 15 years, AALF Twin Cities has harnessed the collective power of Black communities to solve complex social problems. Our goal is to build a just and healthy society that works equally well for everyone.

The African American Leadership Forum expresses its strong support for SF 4022: Minnesota Constitutional Amendment for Housing. Through AALF's engagement on housing disparities in Black communities, it became clear that access to safe, affordable housing is a fundamental aspect of a strong quality of life for families. Housing security plays a vital role in the overall well-being of individuals to maintain stability and thrive without constant threat of displacement or financial insecurity. Expanding affordable housing options and establishing a strong legal framework for housing as a right will serve Black Minnesotans in tangible ways, not just in their immediate needs, but long-term strategy to close the racial wealth gap that exists in our state.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill and we ask for your support of SF 4022.

Sincerely,

Samuel Benda

Public Policy Fellow

African American Leadership Forum