



CATHOLIC CHARITIES
Twin Cities

Catholic Charities at Elliot Park
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February 25, 2025

Senator Lindsey Port
Chair, Senate Housing and Homelessness Prevention Committee

Re: Support for Recommendations of the Task Force on Long-Term Sustainability of Affordable Housing

Chair Port and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express Catholic Charities Twin Cities' support of the Task Force on Long-Term Sustainability of Affordable Housing's recommendations. The report provides a comprehensive analysis that highlights the current challenges facing owners and operators of affordable housing as well as actionable recommendations to stabilize Minnesota's affordable housing system.

Affordable housing is a statewide need, affecting families, seniors, and individuals across all communities. As the report outlines, the affordability gap continues to widen, putting many Minnesotans at risk of displacement and homelessness. The recommendations provided, including increased funding for affordable housing preservation and policy changes to alleviate barriers to affordable housing preservation, are essential to tackling this issue.

I strongly urge your support of the Task Force recommendations, particularly those that ensure adequate public funding for supportive services for both new capital investments and existing programs.

As one of Minnesota's major providers of Permanent Supportive Housing, Catholic Charities houses and supports nearly 1,000 of some of the most vulnerable members of our community. Our residents are frequently struggling with complex medical conditions, disabilities, substance use disorder, or other challenges; and the supportive services we provide are often the difference between maintaining housing and falling into homelessness. Increasing public funding for these critical services will provide relief for Catholic Charities and numerous other programs that are operating at a significant deficit.

The Task Force recommendations provide a framework to stabilize this critical component of the housing continuum. Thank you for your consideration of this report and your continued leadership on issues pertaining to housing and homelessness prevention.

Sincerely,

Jamie Verbrugge
President and CEO
Catholic Charities Twin Cities