

March 4, 2025

Chair Lindsey Port
Senate Housing and Homelessness Prevention—Room 1150
Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Avenue West
Saint Paul, Minnesota, 55103

Chair Port and members of the Senate Housing and Homelessness Prevention Committee:

The Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans (“the Council”) submits this letter in support of S.F. 1533 and S.F. 1610, offered by Senator Mohamed and Senator Oumou-Verbeten, to provide homeowner education, counseling, and training and make permanent the first-generation homebuyer assistance program.

The Council is charged by the Legislature with the statutory duty of advocating on behalf of Minnesota’s Asian and Pacific Islander (API) communities, acting as the liaison between state government and Minnesota’s API communities and serving as an advisory body to the Legislature and the Governor. It is in this capacity that we express our support of these bills.

In the Council’s 2024 Community Priorities Survey, Home Ownership was identified as among the top priority issues for Asian Pacific Minnesotans through hundreds of responses gathered from across Minnesota’s API communities. Homeownership is the foundation of financial security and building generational wealth for many Minnesotans, yet remains challenging to achieve for first-generation homebuyers, including among Minnesota’s refugee-experienced populations.

Improving access to stable housing, including homeownership, will benefit Asian Pacific Minnesotan families, their communities, and employers. By making the first-generation homebuyers assistance pilot program permanent and providing homeowner education, counseling, and training, these two bills will help bring homeownership within reach for many that struggle to reach it today. In particular, the “provision of culturally appropriate counseling and education services to those with limited English proficiency or limited access to technology” for homeownership education in S.F. 1533 will help make stable housing more accessible for underserved communities.

We thank the Committee for its consideration of these bills and the opportunity to express the Council’s view. We urge the Committee to support to S.F. 1533 and S.F. 1610.

Sincerely,



Andrew Morris
Legislative and Public Affairs Liaison
Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans