



March 26, 2025

To: Chair Port and Members of the Senate Housing and Homelessness Prevention Committee

RE: SF 2950 (Pappas) - Support for Homebuyer Initiative Pilot Program,

The Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage writes to express strong support for SF 2950, the Homebuyer Initiative Pilot Program. This funding is a critical investment in expanding homeownership opportunities, addressing Minnesota's significant homeownership gap, and promoting economic stability for low- and moderate-income families.

Access to homeownership remains a significant challenge for many Minnesotans due to rising housing costs, limited housing supply, and financial barriers. This bill will help address these challenges by providing resources to support first-time homebuyers and ensure long-term affordability.

The Rondo Community Land Trust (RCLT) has a proven track record of creating permanently affordable homeownership opportunities by leveraging the community land trust model. By ensuring that homes remain affordable for future generations, this initiative will not only provide immediate assistance but also build long-term housing stability.

Investing in homeownership is an investment in Minnesota's economic future. Stable homeownership strengthens communities, builds generational wealth, and reduces reliance on rental assistance programs. By supporting this bill, Minnesota will take a meaningful step toward expanding homeownership opportunities and creating pathways to economic security for more families.

We urge you to support this critical appropriation and help us advance equitable housing opportunities. Thank you for your leadership and commitment to addressing our state's housing challenges.

Sincerely,

Linda Sloan

Executive Director

Council for Minnesotans of African

The Minnesota Legislature empowered the Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage to ensure that people of African heritage fully and effectively participate in and equitably benefit from the political, social, and economic resources, policies and procedures of the State of Minnesota. Generally, the Council is charged with the responsibility of:

- *Advising the Governor and the Legislature on issues confronting People of African Heritage;*
- *Advising the Governor and the Legislature on statutes, rules, and revisions to programs to ensure that Black people have access to benefits and services provided to people in Minnesota;*
- *Serving as a liaison to the federal government, local government units and private organizations on matters relating to People of African Heritage in Minnesota;*
- *Implementing programs designed to solve problems of People of African Heritage when authorized by statute, rule or order; and*
- *Publicizing the accomplishments of People of African Heritage and their contributions to the state.*