



400 Wabasha Street North, Suite 400  
St. Paul, MN 55102

P: 800.657.3769

F: 651.296.8139 | TTY: 651.297.2361

[www.mnhousing.gov](http://www.mnhousing.gov)

April 26, 2018

The Honorable Jim Knoblach, Chair  
Ways & Means Committee  
Minnesota House of Representatives

The Honorable Lyndon Carlson, DFL Lead  
Ways & Means Committee  
Minnesota House of Representatives

**RE:** HF 4289, Omnibus Job Growth and Energy Affordability Policy & Finance Bill

Dear Representatives,

I am writing to provide comments from Minnesota Housing on the Omnibus Job Growth and Energy Affordability Policy and Finance bill.

#### **Homework Starts with Home**

The Governor included \$4 million in his supplemental budget for Homework Starts with Home and made the program part of Minnesota Housing's base budget. This funding is used to provide short-term and long-term rental assistance to families with school-aged children that are homeless or highly mobile. The initiative would help provide stable housing for 500 families, including an estimated 1,000 Minnesota kids. This initiative builds on the success of a pilot program that created housing stability for 90 percent of participants and strengthened attendance for students. There is statewide need for this funding. In the 2016-17 school year, students facing homelessness attended 1,241 different schools located across 77 of Minnesota's 87 counties.

We appreciate that the omnibus bill includes \$1 million in additional one-time funding for the initiative; however, we are concerned that the funding comes from cuts to programs at other agencies in our bill area. We hope that as the budget process continues, funding cuts will be restored and the committee will consider funding this important initiative at the level proposed by the Governor. This level will allow the program to be extended to more school districts across the state.

#### **Tax-Exempt Bond Reform**

The omnibus bill includes HF 2112 which pertains to tax-exempt bond reform. A work group of housing stakeholders met over the course of the summer and fall last year and agreed to five consensus items that should make up any bond reform package. These five items are reflected in HF 2112 and the omnibus bill. However, we remain concerned about the two additional items in this bill beyond the consensus items.

We have significant concerns about the provision in Article 4, Section 12 on lines 60.3 through 60.14 that 'automatically' allocates affordable housing tax credits. This provision is not in compliance with federal law. We are also concerned about the provision of the bill in Article 4, Section 21 on lines 64.18 and 64.19 that eliminates the state's housing priority for homeownership for two years. We have also provided information on technical concerns about the bill to its authors in a joint letter from Minnesota Management and Budget. We appreciate the ongoing conversations we are having on these issues and hope to find a resolution.

**Manufactured Home Park Infrastructure**


This bill includes one-time funding for the Manufactured Home Park Redevelopment Program. While this is not a part of the Governor's budget, we believe that manufactured housing is an important affordable housing resource. However, we are concerned that funding for this program comes from cuts to programs at other agencies in our bill area.

**Manufactured Home Relocation Trust Fund**

We appreciate that the bill includes HF 3285 to increase the cap on the manufactured home relocation trust fund from \$1 million to \$3 million. This provision was also included in the Governor's supplemental budget.

We hope you find this information helpful and we look forward to continuing to work with you as the process moves forward. Please do not hesitate to contact me, Ryan Baumtrog ([ryan.baumtrog@state.mn.us](mailto:ryan.baumtrog@state.mn.us)) or Katie Topinka ([katie.topinka@state.mn.us](mailto:katie.topinka@state.mn.us)) with any questions.

Sincerely,



Mary Tingerthal  
Commissioner

cc: Members of the House Ways & Means Committee