



April 8, 2026

Chairs and Members of the House Housing Finance and Policy Committee,

Metro Cities, representing the shared interests of cities across the metropolitan area at the Legislature and Executive Branch, appreciates the opportunity to comment on HF 1879 - Kozlowski, which provides funding for the Homeownership Education, Counseling, and Training (HECAT) Program at the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency.

The state must be an active participant in providing funding for housing, and state funding is a major and necessary component for the provision of housing. Current resource levels are insufficient to meet the spectrum of needs in the metropolitan region and across the state.

Metro Cities supports additional funding for the HECAT program, because it helps avoid foreclosures, improves homeownership rates, and supports the financial wellness of future homeowners so they are aware of their rights, options, and costs associated with owning a home. This program is an important part of supporting the spectrum of housing needs in the region.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ania McDonnell'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ania McDonnell
Government Relations Specialist