

# Sample Letter on Housing and Homelessness

(Use your own words)



## 1) Put your name and address on your letter AND on the envelope.

Your legislator wants to know you are a constituent.

## 2) Ask for specific action

(Use this wording or your own words)

Please support the Homes for All proposals of

- \$30 million to strengthen Minnesota's housing continuum, and
- \$100 million in bonding funding (\$80 million to increase the supply of affordable housing; \$20 million to rehab & preserve public housing).

## Example

Date
Dear Rep. _____,
God calls us to care for those who are most vulnerable. In my community, housing instability causes families to go without food, and negatively impacts many children.
Please support the Homes for All proposals of \$30 million to strengthen MN's housing continuum, and 100 million in bonding for more affordable housing and the preservation of existing public housing.
These proposals will help prevent long-term homelessness, improve the health of families, lessen involvement in the criminal justice system, and provide needed stability for children/students.
Sincerely, Your Name Your Address

### Addresses:

Senator \_\_\_\_\_  
Minnesota Senate Building  
95 University Ave. W.  
St. Paul, MN 55155



Rep. \_\_\_\_\_  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155-1298

## 3) Share your motivation and/or a couple of reasons (Share your own reason or choose from below)

- This is important because...
  - [Stories are compelling. Do you volunteer at a drop-in center or shelter? Do you know a family that has struggled to find decent affordable housing?]
  - Throughout the Bible, God speaks through the prophets to leaders and tells them to protect the most vulnerable, including the "homeless poor."
  - Since the year 2000, rent has increased 9%, while income for renters has decreased 11%.
  - Where a family lives is the foundation for health, education, safety, and economic well-being.
  - When families have stable housing, children kids do much better in school, and everyone is healthier.
  - Communities with well-housed low-income people & families have stronger economic development.
  - Half of homeless people in Minnesota are children and youth under age 21, while seniors are among the fastest growing homeless population.
  - In the 2015-16 school year, almost 9500 public school students were homeless or highly-mobile.
  - When shelters are full, homeless families often stay in churches. Some families live in their car or van.
  - These proposals help prevent long-term homelessness, reduce risk of exploitation, and lessen involvement in the criminal justice system.
  - In 2016, \$80 million in bonding leveraged \$300 million in private & local funding. (And there were \$233 million in proposals for the \$80m available)
  - In the Twin Cities Metro Area, minimum wage workers must work 79 hours/week to be able to afford a two-bedroom apartment. This is why parents may have 2, 3, or even 4 jobs.
  - A Twin Cities family needs to earn \$18.19/hr full-time & year round to afford a basic 2BR apartment. (In Rochester, it's \$16.60/hr).

[2/23/17]