



Sowers of Justice
Catholic Legislative Network

**Action
Alert**

**Support the
Housing Solutions Act!**

March 6, 2007

BACKGROUND:

The need for affordable housing is growing! In 2000, 297,000 low-income households statewide could not afford their housing. This number is projected to grow to 330,000 low-income households by 2010 (according to *The Next Decade of Housing in Minnesota*, BBC Research and Consulting, 2003).

The Housing Solutions Act almost triples state funding each year for affordable housing programs including over \$22.5 million for rental assistance for extremely low-income people, \$17.5 million for the Challenge fund for workforce housing, and \$13.25 million for a local incentive housing program. Over 9,000 households could be assisted each year. The HSA bill will adjust the deed tax from .33% to .50%, an increase of \$383 on the cost of a \$225,000 median priced Minnesota home.

On Wednesday, March 7, the Housing Solutions Act will receive a critical hearing in the Senate Health, Housing, and Family Security Committee. Some legislators will be learning about the HSA for the first time. This is an important opportunity to help legislators understand the broad support that exists for the HAS.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. Pack the hearing room! The hearing will take place Wednesday, March 7, from 12:30 – 2:45 pm in Room 15 of the MN State Capitol in. Come show your support as Senator Cohen and housing advocates make their case for why the committee should pass the Housing Solutions Act.
2. If you can't make it to the hearing, contact members of the committee beforehand. Encourage them to support the Housing Solutions Act when it comes before their committee on Wednesday. Contact information is on the back of this alert.

FMI, please contact Matt Rezac at 651-291-4536.

*See attached sheet for members of the Senate
Health, Housing and Family Security Committee*