



MINNESOTA COUNCIL
ON FOUNDATIONS

a community of grantmakers

4/2/2025

Re: HF2709

Dear Co-Chair Quam and Co-Chair Freiberg,

My name is May Yang and I am the Senior Manager of Policy and Partnerships with the [Minnesota Council on Foundations](#) (MCF). MCF is a statewide association of grantmakers focused on ensuring Minnesota has a strong charitable sector and an inclusive democracy. We are committed to strengthening democratic systems and civic participation. As part of this, we support state decisions and investments that will prepare Minnesota for a full 2030 census count.

I am writing regarding HF2709 which modifies census enumerator access to multi-unit buildings. We want to emphasize how critical it is to ensure that enumerators have access. Permitting census workers access to multiunit facilities such as apartments allows enumerators to reach one of the most historically undercounted populations in the census: renters. Data from the 2020 census revealed that [renters were significantly undercounted at -1.48%](#) compared to an overcount of homeowners at 0.43%. Data from the Minnesota Housing Partnership shows that [renters make up 28%](#) of all households in Minnesota, **thus it is critical to allow enumerator access to ensure we are reaching a significant portion of our population.**

HF2709 requires that census employees give 24 hours' notice to gain access to the facility. We write today to share that this may present barriers to census enumerators. Census enumerators can get their field assignments on short notice. Often this means that they will receive an assignment the day of. Due to this, requiring 24-hour notice to access buildings could prevent enumerators from being able to arrive at their assigned addresses in a timely matter to fulfill their duties of collecting accurate data.

We thank Representative Jones for her leadership on this bill and appreciate her willingness to meet with us, and her openness to accept feedback about how the proposals in HF2709 may impact census operations and enumerators. **We remain committed to working with Representative Jones and others to ensure that the language in HF2709 is amended to best promote access for census enumerators.**

The census is the cornerstone of American democracy, as it provides the basis for representation and reapportionment. All Minnesotans must be thoroughly counted to ensure every community has access and representation in state and federal policy and decision-making. Allowing census workers access to multiunit buildings promotes a full census count and ensures our ability to reach all our undercounted communities, including our state's renters. **It is imperative that Minnesota legislation allows greater opportunities for a full and accurate count in our census.**

Thank you for your leadership and the opportunity to submit testimony. I am happy to answer any questions or provide further information.



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Sincerely,
May Yang
Senior Manager of Policy and Partnerships
Minnesota Council on Foundations
myang@mcf.org