



March 17, 2026

Dear Chair Hoffman and Members of the Senate Human Services Committee:

Metro Cities appreciates the opportunity to comment on SF 4279 (Hoffman). Metro Cities supports this bill.

Municipal officials recognize the services that residential programs provide and are responsible for safeguarding the health, safety, and welfare of residents in group homes as well as other types of housing.

Metro Cities supports the notification requirements contained in Section 2 and Section 4 in the bill. These requirements will help cities become and remain aware of licensed services operating within their community and help local city staff proactively develop positive working relationships with operators before any potential concerns arise.

A significant amount of the state's residential programs and assisted living facilities with six or fewer residents are in the metropolitan area, with higher concentrations found in several of the region's suburbs. Cities have reasonable concerns about high concentrations of these facilities because of the potential impacts on city services and a desire to maintain balance between residential programs and other uses in residential neighborhoods. Metro Cities supports the establishment of appropriate non-concentration standards such as those found in Section 1 and Section 6 of SF 4279.

Legislation passed in 2024 exempted community residential programs and assisted living facilities with licensed capacities of six or fewer residents from local rental licensing regulations. Metro Cities' policies support the repeal of this statutory language. In lieu of a repeal, the language contained in Section 3 and Section 5 of SF 4279 allows the state to delegate inspection authority to local units of government to ensure that facilities meet safety and livability standards. Metro Cities supports allowing city officials who request this authority the ability to inspect facilities for compliance with applicable codes and zoning ordinances.

This bill will help cities better partner with state agencies, counties, and operators of residential programs and assisted living facilities with six or fewer residents. We look forward to working with the author, committee, and other stakeholders as this legislation is further considered. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Lund". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Mike Lund  
Government Relations Specialist  
Metro Cities