

Thank you, Mme Chair, members of the committee. My name is Kinsey Hasstedt, and I'm the State and Local Policy Director for Enterprise Community Partners here in Colorado.

I'm here to voice Enterprise's support of HB 23b-1001. We appreciate the sponsors for bringing such critical legislation in this special session.

Enterprise works nationally and throughout Colorado to increase the supply of rental homes affordable to people living on low and fixed incomes, as well as permanent supportive housing. Our capital investments prioritize meeting the needs of the most cost-burdened renters, those living at 80% of their area median income and below. These individuals and families have long faced the most significant lack of available and affordable homes and are therefore particularly at risk of eviction and displacement from their homes and communities.

We appreciate the attention and investments this legislature has given to producing and preserving affordable housing across the state, but we must also invest in stabilizing those who are currently in homes while new deeply affordable homes are financed and built. And even as many Coloradans are feeling relief from the pandemic, those who were hardest hit continue to face the effects of exacerbated economic and housing instability.

Enterprise therefore thanks the Governor for including rental assistance in this session's call and supports these funds' focus on stabilizing low- and fixed-income households as and before they face an eviction court filing. This investment will help stabilize renters, affordable housing providers, and our housing ecosystem as a whole—and is more cost-effective than forcing people into court proceedings or homelessness.

Enterprise supports HB 23b-1001 and urges your yes vote.