



May 26, 2021

Dear members of the House Transportation & Local Government Committee:

With gratitude for the leadership of Representatives Lontine and Titone, I am pleased to submit Enterprise Community Partners' support for SB 252.

Enterprise works nationally and here in here in Colorado to increase the supply of high-quality, affordable housing, advance racial equity, and build resilience and upward mobility. We do so through policy advocacy, place-based programmatic engagement, and capital investments. In 2020, Enterprise invested nearly \$148 million throughout Colorado, producing or preserving more than 1,200 affordable homes.

Still, Colorado does not have enough affordable housing for the people who need it. This includes homes that are meaningfully affordable for people to live in and enjoy the benefits of the communities in which they work. Enterprise fully supports the opportunity for economic revitalization and provided for in this bill, and particularly appreciate the program's consideration of affordable housing—especially for those hardest hit by the pandemic.

The most recently available housing affordability data from the Colorado Division of Housing shows the need for affordable units both for rent and sale far exceeds the available supply. DOH estimated a total of 300,000 renting and owning households were severely cost-burdened across the state, and that was well before the start of the COVID pandemic. DOH found particular gaps in affordable housing stock in many of the communities this bill seeks to support—including our mountain and rural areas.

As this grant program is implemented, we encourage prioritizing the availability of homes connected key measures of economic opportunity and mobility. This includes not only access to jobs, but also to education, transportation, public services and safe outdoor spaces.

Achieving these goals will encompass tactics such as funding the acquisition of existing residential and commercial properties for affordable housing, as well as promoting so-called missing middle housing and other creative means to increase high-quality housing choices for current and future civil servants and employees of the revitalized main streets made possible through this program.

Enterprise supports this bill and urges your yes vote on SB 252.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kinsey Hasstedt
Director, State & Local Policy
Enterprise Community Partners

[ENTERPRISE COMMUNITY PARTNERS, INC.](https://www.enterprisecommunitypartners.com)

1035 Osage Street ■ Suite 1125 ■ Denver, CO 80204 ■ 303.573.1571 ■ www.EnterpriseCommunity.org