

****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

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What: Kick Off the 2019 Legislative Session with Homes for All!

Where: Calvary Lutheran Church, 2508 Washington Ave SE, Bemidji, MN 56601

When: Saturday, January 12, 2019, 10:00am - 12:00pm

The Homes for All Kickoff is open to the public and all are welcome. There will be appetizers, socializing, and a program focused on what's being done to support affordable housing in the Bemidji area and how the Homes for All 2019-2020 legislative agenda will further that work. Homes for All will also host a Kickoff in St. Paul.

"Homelessness isn't a character flaw, it's a math problem. The most common reason for someone becoming homeless in Minnesota is an inability to afford a place to live. Since 2000, median rents in Minnesota have risen by 9% while the median income of renters has fallen by 11%. But this is not an intractable problem. Homelessness as we know it has not always been here - and it does not have to stay. Through strategic, targeted investments, Minnesota has led the nation in decreases among homeless veterans and families. What we are doing is working - now is not the time to let up."

- **Senta Leff, Executive Director of the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless & Co-Chair of the Homes for All Coalition**

Homes for All is a statewide coalition that advances shared policy initiatives that lead to housing stability for all Minnesotans. The coalition has over 216 organizations, representing thousands of individuals, supporting its legislative agenda.

This year Homes for All released its first ever two-year agenda, advocating for a total of \$55 million per biennium to strengthen Minnesota's housing continuum, \$300 million per biennium to build and preserve homes (bonding), \$25 million per biennium to prevent and end homelessness, and \$50 million annually to promote locally directed affordable housing projects through tax credits. The legislative session began on January 8, 2019.

For more information, visit www.homesforallmn.org