



May 5, 2026

Dear Members of the Finance and Personnel Committee:

As Executive Director of the Zilber Family Foundation, I am writing in support of our partner Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee's Eviction Free MKE and the proposal for reallocated American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. The Zilber Family Foundation is committed to expanding access to social and economic opportunity in Milwaukee, and housing stability is essential to that work.

Eviction Free MKE is a proven, community-centered response to one of the most destabilizing challenges facing Milwaukee families. Now in its fifth year, the project has served more than 31,000 individuals through eviction defense and prevention services that help keep households stable and has become a vital part of our city's safety net. Just as important, the project provides critical pre- and post-eviction support, including assistance related to termination notices, habitability concerns, self-help evictions and lockouts, and security deposit recovery. It also helps tenants understand their rights and responsibilities and has been a key partner in the Milwaukee Rental Housing Resource Center.

Legal representation and early intervention can make the difference between a family remaining housed and a household being pushed into crisis. Eviction Free MKE strengthens housing security, advances fairness in our local housing system, and supports the broader community conditions Milwaukee families need to thrive. I respectfully urge you to support this program with reallocated ARPA funds. Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to our community.

Sincerely,

Lianna Bishop
Executive Director

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lianna Bishop".

Lianna Bishop
Executive Director

