

April 10, 2024

Human Services Finance Committee
379 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: HF 5200

Dear Chair Noor and Members of the Human Services Finance Committee,

Today, conflicting eligibility criteria, administrative complexities, staff shortages, limited access to resources, and misaligned funding distribution jeopardize the sustainability of state-funded supportive housing projects, putting long term solutions to homelessness and housing stability for thousands of Minnesotans at risk.

We write to express strong support for HF 5200, which aims to streamline access, eligibility, and administration of multiple state-funded supportive housing resources for individuals experiencing homelessness in Minnesota.

As committed advocates for housing stability and equity, the bill outlines several key objectives that highlight our shared goals, including:

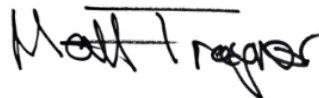
- **Reducing Administrative Complexities:** By naming current processes and identifying areas of improvement, we can simplify bureaucratic hurdles and ensure that supportive housing resources reach those who need them most efficiently.
- **Enhancing Equity and Accessibility:** It is essential that all eligible individuals have equal access to supportive housing. This bill seeks to address disparities and promote equitable distribution of resources.
- **Streamlining Eligibility Criteria, Paperwork, and Funding Distribution:** Streamlining these criteria will expedite access to supportive housing services.
- **Accelerating Transitions from Homelessness to Sustainable Solutions:** Our ultimate goal is to reduce barriers and support individuals to move from homelessness toward stable, long-term housing solutions.

We urge you to support HF 5200 to help simplify Minnesota's complex array of state-funded supportive housing resources. The proposed workgroup, comprised of representatives from various agencies and organizations across the state, including people with lived experience, will play a pivotal role in shaping effective policies and guide us toward practical long-term solutions to homelessness.

Thank you for your public service and consideration of this important request.



Marcus Schmit
Executive Director
Hearth Connection



Matt Traynor
Acting Executive Director
MCH

Stakeholders signing onto this letter:

Agate Housing and Services, Inc.
Ain Dah Yung (Our Home) Center
Aliveness Project
Alliance Housing Inc
Alluma, Inc.
Avenues for Youth
Avivo
Bray house
Breaking Free
Catholic Charities of Southern MN
Catholic Charities Twin Cities
Center City Housing
Chum
Clare Housing
Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH)
Dakota Woodlands
Fairview Health Services
Freedom from the Streets
Frey Foundation
Grace House of Itasca County
Greater Twin Cities United Way
Guild
Heading Home Funders Collaborative
Hearth Connection
Housing Matters
HumanKind Services
MICAH-Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing
Minnesota Care Counseling Services Inc
Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless
Office of Indian Ministry
One Roof Community Housing
Our Saviour's Community Services
People Incorporated
Phoenix Service Corporation
Project for Pride in Living (PPL)
RS EDEN
Secure Housing Assistance
Simpson Housing Services
SOAR Career Solutions
The Link
Tri-County Action Program, Inc.
Tubman
YouthLink