



March 7, 2022

*Sent via Email

The Honorable Representative Abeler, Chair
Capital Investment Committee
485 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for SF 3140

Dear Chair Abeler and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for hearing SF 3140 and to Representatives Senjem and Fateh for authoring the bill. Dakota Woodlands urges your support for this legislation to provide capital funding for emergency shelter facilities. There is significant need across Minnesota to support individuals, youth, and families experiencing homelessness and state investment will help meet these temporary housing needs.

Dakota Woodlands is the only shelter for homeless families in Dakota County. We house 22 homeless families each night. Families can stay with us as long as they need, many staying for several months. This capital funding will have a major impact on Dakota Woodlands as we launch our accessibility project which will create access for families with a disabled member to enter our shelter. This funding will allow us to restore our elevator to working order in our two-story facility. It will also allow us to renovate all bathrooms to ensure all elements are handicap-accessible.

In addition, this funding will help to preserve shelter beds at Dakota Woodlands by addressing ongoing maintenance issues such as: window replacement, installation of additional security features, and repair of baseboard heating units.

SF 3140 will provide much needed support for these efforts to create a long-term plan for shelter, and more importantly, a pathway to stable housing for our most vulnerable residents.

Thank you for your consideration to invest state funding for urgently needed emergency shelter facilities throughout the state. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Harrison, MA, CFRE
Executive Director
Dakota Woodlands