



March 24, 2022

Support for SF3994 – Housing program eligibility modifications and appropriations

Dear Chair Draheim and members of the Senate Housing Finance and Policy Committee,

Better Futures Minnesota (BFM) appreciates the opportunity to express our support for SF3994. We are a non-profit social enterprise committed to changing the systems and practices that perpetuate the cycles of dependency experienced by recently incarcerated men. Our nonprofit provides and manages a residence for adult men leaving corrections and provides 24 hour services, which can be quite costly. SF3994's appropriation supportive housing fund of \$12M will help to alleviate some of the costs associated with providing these services.

BFM was created specifically to address a need highlighted by policy leaders: aiding and uplifting men with chronic homelessness and a history within the criminal justice system. Having stable housing has been proven to significantly reduce the recidivism rate and create better equal-opportunity communities. The housing provided by BFM ensures that men have safe and reliable accommodations; a significant first step in discouraging their return to old dependencies and illicit activities. The \$12M appropriation for supportive housing funds will help Better Futures fulfill staffing needs associated with providing 24-hour supervised housing support, a key part of bringing forth essential needs to our participants.

As an organization committed to championing better rehabilitation, healthcare, workforce skills training - and other amenities and resources for those leaving corrections - SF3994 aligns nicely with BFM's priorities and legislative goals. Most of all, it is an important step towards closing the revolving door in Minnesota's prisons. We reaffirm our support for the supportive housing component in SF3994 and urge its inclusion in any legislation moving forward.

Alex Frank
Better Futures Minnesota