

January 30, 2023

Cynthia Jaksa
1315 14th Ave
International Falls, MN 56649

Chair Wiklund
Members of the Health & Human Services Committee

Dear Chair Wiklund and members of the Health & Human Services Committee:

I trust that hearing from the average citizen will make a difference in the hearings to pass SF388 and therefore I am writing now. I trust that the senators will respect and try to fulfill their promise to listen to their constituents and fulfill their oaths to act in the best interests of Minnesotans.

Homelessness eats away at the spirit of the people who are forced to suffer it and the people who watch it. To tolerate this condition and do nothing about it corrodes everyone's humanity, not just the homeless. With that decline in our collective humanity, life eventually becomes coarser and cruder than it presently is. Legislators have a responsibility to help refine our society and uplift its citizens, not ignore the plight of the needy.

In my personal experience, I know of two elderly women - in their seventies - who do not have stable housing and one of them has had to make use of our shelter in International Falls. I was grateful to Servants of Shelter in International Falls for having the capacity to offer her assistance at a desperate time.

Before we start depleting the surplus by disbursing checks to taxpayers, please use state funds to make a difference in the lives of our citizens. In the long run, individual tax refunds will not have the impact on Minnesota quality of life that a judicious use of state revenues will have.

I am a proud Minnesotan because of the commitment Minnesota state government shows towards its citizens who are need in assistance. Further, I am a participant in voting and supporting candidates and elected officials who will help move the common welfare forward in this state. I will be paying close attention to who supports this on the floor of the state Senate and who does not.

Please provide the funds needed to pass SF388 and provide our communities with the power to help our most vulnerable. I know the funds are there. Be proactive, help make our communities better and pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Jaksa
Citizen of International Falls
1315 14th Avenue