



Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys Supports SF388

Submitted January 31, 2023

Members of the MN Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

Girl Scouts River Valleys is the local council of Girl Scouts of the USA, a registered 501(c)3 organization and the preeminent leadership development organization for girls. We are one of 111 Girl Scout councils that make up the national Girl Scout Movement, sharing the mission to build girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place. Girl Scouts River Valleys serves over 29,000 members in southern Minnesota, western Wisconsin, and one county in Iowa.

Girl Scouts River Valleys is writing today in support of SF388, the Pathway Home Act. This bill will invest millions of urgently needed funds to support homeless services. As a youth-serving organization we are especially appreciative of the inclusion of the Homeless Youth Act and Chosen Family Pilot in this bill.

We are deeply concerned by the youth homelessness crisis in Minnesota. On any given night there are 4,872 unaccompanied youth who are experiencing homelessness. Youth and girls who are homeless are at high-risk of being victimized through physical violence and exploitation. This bill not only provides grants through the Homeless Youth Act but will appropriate vital funding to improve and expand emergency shelter facility options, including improving access to those that provide culturally appropriate and gender inclusive shelter. Every child has the right to a safe place to live and one child homeless in Minnesota is one child too many.

We ask that that you listen closely to the testimony and support SF388. We would be happy to further discuss the details of our support for this issue; please feel free to reach out at any time to Sara Gangelhoff, Advocacy and Community Relations Manager at Girl Scouts River Valleys, advocacy@girlscoutsrv.org.

Thank you for your service on this committee and your attention to this bill.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marisa C. Williams".

Marisa C. Williams
Chief Executive Officer
Girl Scouts River Valleys

Mission: building girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place.

Girl Scouts River Valleys
400 Robert Street South
Saint Paul, MN 55107

(800)-845-0787
GirlScoutsRV.org
 @GirlScoutsRV