

February 1, 2023

Re: SF388 (Dibble)/HF444 (Keeler)

Dear Chair Wiklund and Members of the Health & Human Services Committee,

We thank you for the opportunity to share the Minnesota Social Service Association's support of SF388 which would provide much needed investments in shelter and housing. The Minnesota Social Service Association (MSSA) is made up of over 4,000 health and human service professionals statewide. Our members cover the health and human service spectrum—mental health providers, social workers, case managers, etc.—and are employed by for-profit and non-profit entities, as well as state and local government agencies. Many of our members work at shelters, help clients find and maintain housing, and work with those who are unhoused.

MSSA seeks to address increasing rates of housing instability and homelessness. These issues disproportionately affect Black, Indigenous and People of Color and those from LGBTQ+ communities due to discriminatory housing practices, higher rates of eviction, and lack of generational wealth. MSSA supports the following provisions in SF388 that will help mitigate these issues:

- **Emergency Shelter Facilities:** MSSA members include county agencies. Currently, 80 of 87 counties do not have enough shelter beds to meet the needs in their communities. The emergency shelter provisions in this bill would help ensure money for new shelters and preservation of existing shelters, both of which are critical for MSSA members and the clients they serve.
- **Emergency Services Program (ESP):** Emergency services are essential in meeting the needs of people experiencing homelessness and allowing local communities to address these needs.
- **Transitional Housing Program (THP):** MSSA members who work with individuals and families leaving shelters have cited this as an essential investment. This funding will help families maintain stable housing.
- **Other Critical Investments:** MSSA is also supportive of other investments in SF388, including those for the Homeless Management Information System, the Homeless Youth Act, Homeless Youth; and Chosen Family Grants.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share our support on behalf of our members and the clients they serve. Please reach out to us with questions, comments, or concerns at [msancartier@mnssa.org](mailto:msancartier@mnssa.org).

Sincerely,

Michelle SanCartier  
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