



YOUTHLINK

from HOMELESS to HOPEFUL

January 30, 2023

To: Chair Wiklund & Members of the Health & Human Services Committee, Minnesota Senate
Re: SF388 Pathways Home Act

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

YouthLink is writing to you today to express strong support for SF388. With 45+ years serving youth who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, we have witnessed many success stories of youth who have transitioned to stability, self-sufficiency, and wellbeing.

But the COVID pandemic and the ongoing trauma BIPOC individuals and communities are experiencing because of systemic racism have surfaced even greater challenges for the 90% BIPOC young people YouthLink serves. As a result, the investments included in the Pathways Home Act, and the comprehensive funding this bill provides for organizations like YouthLink to serve homeless youth and help them transition to stability and self-sufficiency, are needed more than ever.

YouthLink and many organizations like us are on the ground, doing the work with limited resources. With the investments included in SF388, we are ready to work in partnership to make a bigger impact.

We are excited at this opportunity for strong investment in the well-being of our youth and our communities, and grateful that this bill has come forward.

Sincerely,

Rich Melzer
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