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[alignmpls.org/svoc](http://alignmpls.org/svoc)

Regarding: SF2966, Article 5, Sections 4 and 9-10

To: Chair Melissa Wicklund of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee

Dear Chair Wicklund,

We, Street Voices of Change, are a group of people with lived experiences of homelessness who come together to identify issues important to us and work for change in our community. We are writing today to express support for reforming Housing Support income definitions, as proposed by the Governor in HF2900/SF2966, Article 5, Sections 4 and 9-10. This reform would change the formula of income that goes to housing in the Housing Support program (formerly called "GRH"). Housing Support reform is an issue that is very important to me and to Street Voices of Change, and we are working to raise awareness and support for this important bill.

These proposed changes are important to us because Housing Support as the program is today keeps people in homelessness or deters people from accessing housing. Too much of a person's income is taken for housing which makes it difficult for people on the program to afford basic needs like a phone and medication. This takes away people's agency and ability to build savings to possibly purchase a car or a home of their own. Housing Support is an important program, but the way it is set up currently is not effective at ending homelessness. These changes would change the program so that people who have unearned income such as SSDI or Veteran's Benefits would only have to pay 30% of their income to their housing, rather than the 80-90% that many people are currently paying on the Housing Support program.

Thank you for your work on this and for the inclusion of this important and needed change.

Sincerely,  
Street Voices of Change