



March 12, 2023

The Honorable Tou Xiong
State Senator
Minnesota Senate
3203 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: SF 2813 - Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis Homeless Elders Program

Dear Senator Xiong:

Legal Aid writes in full support of SF 2813, your bill to operate funding the Catholic Charities of Minneapolis and St. Paul to operate its homeless elders program that helps homeless, isolated, and low-income older adults to move into stable housing. This is an important program that merits financial support from the Legislature.

Legal Aid operates several programs that provide advice and representation to older adults, including our Elder Law Program, our Minnesota Disability Law Project, and our Housing Units across the state, all in some way touching on the challenges facing low-income older Minnesotans, including homeless elders.

In order to address health, safety, housing, and stability issues facing this population, it is necessary to support services like those Catholic Charities' Homeless Elder Program. The cost to the state to support this program is far less than the cost of society and taxpayers if this program did not exist.

Thank you for allowing Legal Aid to write in support of SF 2813. We hope this funding can be included in the final Health and Human Services budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Elwood". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ron Elwood
Supervising Attorney