

March 31, 2023

Chair Wiklund
Vice Chair Mann
Members of the Health and Human Services Policy & Finance Committee

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

The Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless (MCH) is writing on behalf of our advocates and partners to urge you to increase funding to address the homelessness crisis in Minnesota through SF2995. In particular, we want to lift up SF388 which was heard in this committee on February 1.

Pathway Home Act, SF388 (Dibble), provides desperately needed funding needed to strengthen our homeless response system. The Pathway Home Act provides funding for: \$150M for shelter capital to enhance and create shelter spaces (one-time); \$40M (24/25) & \$70M (26/27) for the Emergency Services Program to provide money for shelter operations, motel vouchers, staffing and street outreach; funding for the Transitional Housing Program; Homeless Youth Act; and other important priorities.

By funding SF388 (Pathway Home Act), we can make the needed investments that will positively change lives and communities. This legislation has been shaped by community input, in particular from individuals and communities closest to the issue of homelessness, and can turn the tide to end unsheltered homelessness and create a pathway home for children, youth, families, veterans, and seniors across Minnesota.

The Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless sets our legislative agenda through listening sessions with people who are or have experienced homelessness and in partnership with the statewide network of organizations doing everything they can to offer support to people. In addition to this, we have a leadership team of individuals with lived experience and frontline workers that are deeply engaged as decision-makers in our advocacy. SF 388 matches what MCH has heard time and again in this process: people need access to safe, dignified, accessible, and culturally-responsive shelter and services.

On behalf of the 80 organizations who have signed onto this letter (which would be even more if we had additional time), please include funding at the levels outlined in SF388.. These investments will save lives.

Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC)
City of Duluth
City of Minneapolis
City of Rochester - Mayor
Dakota County, Community Services
Hennepin County: Homeless Access Team
Minnesota Tribal Collaborative
Morrison County Health and Human Services
Olmsted County
Sherburne County, MN
Suburban Metro Area Continuum of Care (SMAC)
Director's Council
Washington County Community Services
Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless

Lived Experience Advocacy Network (LEAN)
Northwest Minnesota Foundation
PERIS Foundation
ThinkSelf Minnesota Deaf Adult Education &
Advocacy
Stable Housing is the Priority (SHIP Collaborative)
Violence Free Minnesota
Youth and AIDS Projects
Youth Health and Housing Lab at University of
Minnesota
Zumbro Valley Medical Society
Agate Housing & Services

LIST CONTINUES ON THE NEXT PAGE

American Association of University Women - Mpls
Branch
Ain Dah Yung (Our Home) Center
Align Minneapolis
Aliveness Project
Alluma, Inc.
Anna Marie's Alliance
Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency
Avenues for Youth
Avivo
CADA, Inc.
CAPLP
Care and share.Inc. Crookston, Minnesota.
Catholic Charities Twin Cities
Center City Housing Corp.
Chum
CloseKnit
Community Action Center Northfield
Connections Ministry and Shelter, Mankato, MN
Connections Shelter
Dakota Woodlands
Faith In Housing
Family Promise in Anoka County
Freedom From The Streets & No More
Streets
Good Samaritan United Methodist Church of Edina
Grace House of Itasca County, Homeless Shelter
Haven Housing
Hope Coalition
Listening House of St. Paul
Loaves and Fishes Community
Lumen Christi Catholic Community
Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota
MAHUBE-OTWA Community Action Partnership
MICAH- Metropolitan Interfaith Council on
Affordable Housing
Minnesota Community Care
Missions Inc. Programs
Nameless Coalition for the Homeless
New Pathways, Inc.
Oasis Central Minnesota
Open Access Connections
Open Doors for Youth
Open Your Heart to the Hungry and Homeless
Our Saviour's Community Services
Partners for Housing; Mankato, Minnesota
Phumulani Minnesota African Women Against
Violence Violence
Range Transitional Housing, Inc.

Safe Haven Shelter & Resource Center
Servants of Shelter of Koochiching County
Simpson Housing Services, Inc.
Solid Ground
Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership
The Bridge for Youth
The Dignity Center
The Link
Three Rivers Community Action
Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities
West Central Minnesota Continuum of Care
West Central MN Communities Action