



Hearth
Connection

2446 University Avenue S.
Suite 150
St. Paul, MN 55114
651.645.0676

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Senate Housing and Homelessness Prevention Committee
3213 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: SF 2566

Dear Chair Port and Members of the Committee,

I write to express Hearth Connection's enthusiastic support for the establishment of a Supportive Housing Program at the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency. In Minnesota and across the nation, it is proven that the combination of affordable housing with individualized support services (i.e., supportive housing) is good for people – their housing stability, their health, their well-being. Supportive housing is also good for government – with reduced costs to public systems like health care, shelter, jails, and prisons.

For many years, housing and service providers along with developers and government partners have called for the alignment of capital, operating, and services funding to work together in a sustainable way. This proposal equips Minnesota Housing to do exactly that. It allows for funding to support necessary activities, such as 24-hour front desk and security, as well as ensuring all tenants are connected to the right level of additional services to meet their needs.

This proposal streamlines funding for supportive housing in a structural way to increase efficiency, long-term stability, and compliance with housing development financing. It also incentivizes partnerships with the health care sector to improve access to health care and reduce expensive emergency and institutional care.

Thank you for your consideration and for your public service.

Marcus Schmit
Executive Director