



April 3, 2024

Melissa H. Wiklund, Chair Health and Human Services Committee
2107 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Wiklund and Committee Members,

As CEO of Interfaith Action of Greater Saint Paul, I am writing to **encourage your support of the Heading Home Ramsey Bill (SF 4779) and the Bridge to Shelter Statewide Bill (SF 4018)**. Interfaith Action of Greater Saint Paul works with diverse faith and spiritual communities to drive significant change in our community.

Project Home is an Interfaith Action program. It accommodates up to 30 families or 100 individuals and is the largest shelter in Ramsey County for families with minor children experiencing homelessness. Together, we are building economic opportunity and mobility.

The number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in Ramsey County has risen sharply in recent years. We need help. Recent one-time funds have enabled Heading Home Ramsey and partners to increase shelter capacity and create more effective supports and interventions to move people from homelessness to housing.

We risk losing significant shelter and service capacity; more funds are needed. The Heading Home Ramsey Bill (SF 4779) and the Bridge to Shelter Statewide Bill (SF 4018) request significant investments that will fund critical interventions, including continued shelter and additional support for families; continued shelter operation for single adults, including expanded women's shelter options; continued operation of day shelters and services; and outreach, diversion, system improvements, and extreme weather support.

We applaud Ramsey County, the City of Saint Paul, and the State of Minnesota's efforts to dramatically increase the amount of deeply affordable housing in the next 3-5 years. Funding these efforts will help us achieve our goal of making homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring – especially for people of color and indigenous people. **We need your support to care for children and families in need while this dream is being realized.**

Thank you for your consideration and support!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Liliana Letran-Garcia".

Liliana Letran-Garcia
Chief Executive Officer