

April 1st, 2024

Senator Zaynab Mohamed  
2103 Minnesota Senate Building  
Minnesota Senate Building  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Representative Sandra Feist  
409 State Office Building  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Senator Mohamed and Representative Feist,

The MN Coalition for the Homeless and our members are extremely appreciative of the work you did to help pass the [Pathway Home Act](#) in 2023. The Bridge to Shelter legislation is a much needed conversation that needs to happen ASAP at the Capitol. While MCH did not have this on our 2024 legislative agenda, it was due to not being Statewide and a couple issues that we lack the solutions for. While the Bridge to Shelter legislation is not perfect, we want to be clear that predictable funding for the homeless response system is VERY much a priority.

Providers are doing everything they can and the investments from 2023 will have a significant impact. However, it still is not enough to meet the needs. Shelters throughout Minnesota are at risk of lowering their services and in some cases, reducing their hours of operation or closing their doors. These local partnerships need to be scaled up with more state investment. Your legislation, (SF 4018/HF 3971, the Bridge to Shelter Act), represents that additional investment. Thank you for working to meet this need, and thank you for being open to further improvements that will send funding to the providers and services most connected to our unhoused residents. Every Minnesotan deserves a safe, dignified, supportive, and accessible place to live. The Bridge to Shelter Act get us closer to that goal

Sincerely,

Matt Traynor  
Interim Executive Director  
MN Coalition for the Homeless