

March 29, 2024

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

Re: Support Ramsey County Continuum of Care

Dear Chair Wiklund and Committee Members:

On behalf of the St. Paul Area Chamber and its members, I write to offer our strong support for legislation that will provide additional state resources to the Ramsey County Continuum of Care (Heading Home Ramsey) to serve the unsheltered residents of our communities.

Our members are committed to addressing homelessness and providing support to those in crisis. Advocating for resources for emergency shelter operations has been a top priority at the state and local level for our Chamber for several years. Accordingly, we ask that you pass legislation to deliver needed resources to our local homelessness response.

The Bridge to Shelter Act (S.F. 4018) creates a pilot project funding continuums of care based on the Homeless Point in Time Count. Using a formula to direct emergency shelter resources where they are most needed will help improve coordination between system partners and outcomes for those in need of shelter and services.

Another approach is found in S.F. 4779, which provides funding directly to Heading Home Ramsey. Directing funding to the continuum of care will allow the County to be nimble and deploy resources where they can be most effective (based on unsheltered population demographics, location, needs, etc.)

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



B Kyle  
President and CEO  
St. Paul Area Chamber

CC: Senator John Marty, Senator Zaynab Mohamed

