



CATHOLIC CHARITIES
Twin Cities

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Date: April 8, 2024

To: Chair Port and members of the Housing & Homelessness Prevention Committee

From: **Jessica Meyerson, Chief Accountability Officer, Catholic Charities Twin Cities**

Chair Port and Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of **Catholic Charities Twin Cities** to express our strong support for SF 4592/HF 4645, appropriating funding for the Minnesota Homeless Study. The study has been a critical resource in understanding and addressing homelessness in Minnesota since 1991. It is unique in the United States in its partnership with tribal communities, as well as the comprehensive nature of the publicly available data collected over more than 30 years. The study is used to prioritize needs, identify systemic issues, and improve programs and policies to address homelessness in our state. An investment into this study represents incredible value, as the information is used to leverage and prioritize multiple other policies for Minnesotans impacted by homelessness and ensure that investments made are impactful long-term.

Our organization routinely uses the information provided by the Minnesota Homeless study to better understand the life histories and service needs of our clients and their ongoing barriers to housing. For many years now, we have drawn on the rich descriptive information the study provides to inform our service delivery models, raise funds, and shape our advocacy activities.

The Minnesota Homeless Study and the companion Reservation Homeless Study are invaluable resources for anyone working to address homelessness and housing instability across the state. This includes state, county, and city officials, homeless service providers who are on the front lines supporting those individuals and communities most impacted by homelessness, and organizations that homeless individuals and families access for non-housing related services, such as healthcare, transportation services, and schools. **Catholic Charities Twin Cities** calls on the committee to pass SF 4592/HF 4645 to ensure that the state continues to benefit from the insights provided by Minnesota Homeless Study data.

Sincerely,

JAM

Jessica A. Meyerson
Chief Accountability Officer