



April 9, 2024

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

From: Stephanie L. Lewis, Associate Vice President, Community Impact

Chair Port and Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of **Greater Twin Cities United Way** 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.

**The study's comprehensive data and analysis, when aligned with our 211 referral service data, has offered a clearer picture of the unmet need in the housing and homelessness prevention spaces. This has informed our grantmaking along with our "beyond-the-dollar" approaches for our partners in the Housing Stability and Pathways Home investment portfolios as well as our advocacy agenda. The Minnesota Homeless Study has equipped our program and fundraising staff to tell a compelling narrative on homelessness in the metro region with nuance to engage prospective and existing donors in our work to disrupt inequities that will make homelessness rare and non-recurring. Without it, we will not have full knowledge of how to best support the 33 organizations we currently fund.**

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. The **Greater Twin Cities United Way** 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephanie L. Lewis', is positioned above a horizontal line.

Stephanie L. Lewis  
Associate Vice President, Community Impact  
Greater Twin Cities United Way