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April 8, 2024

Chair Port and members of the Housing & Homelessness Prevention Committee 473 State Office Building St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Minnesota Homeless Study (SF 4592/HF 4645)

Dear Chair Port,

I write to express Hearth Connection's enthusiastic support of Wilder Research's funding request for the Minnesota Homeless Study.

As you know, in unique collaboration with Minnesota's tribal nations, this study is used to prioritize needs, identify systemic issues, and improve programs and policies to address our homelessness challenges. The Minnesota Homeless Study and the companion Reservation Homeless Study are invaluable resources for Hearth Connection as we seek to identify and advance long-term, actionable solutions to homelessness in our communities.

We are deeply appreciative of the Wilder Research team's commitment to this important work and encourage you and your committee members to ensure its passage during the 2024 legislative session.

Thank you for your efforts to address Minnesota's housing and homelessness challenges, and for your public service.

Sincerely,

Marcus Schmit Executive Director