

**LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR MN HOMELESS STUDY  
SF4592/HF4645**

April 9, 2024

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

From: Matt Traynor, Interim Executive Director, MN Coalition for the Homeless

Chair Port and Committee Members:

The MN Coalition for the Homeless (MCH) is writing to express our strong support for SF4592/HF4645, 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.

MCH utilizes the Wilder Data in many different ways. We need data and human stories to share a narrative on why we advocate for the resources that we do. The Wilder Study does more than just share the numbers, it initiates conversations that otherwise would not take place. An example of this is the Star Tribune story, [“Homelessness in Minnesota has declined since 2018, according to new study”](#) that was published on March 20th, 2024. While the data may show homelessness has declined, it is still at the 2nd highest in MN history. If there was no MN Homeless Study, we would be exclusively reliant on the HUD annual Point in Time Count which drastically falls short of accurate information. Not only does the study provide needed data, it provides context as to what the data is saying. It is also a way that communities are brought together from across the entire State. The work that goes into the count and the information gathered from it can not be underestimated.

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. MCH, calls on the committee to pass SF4592/HF4645 to ensure that the state continues to benefit from the insights provided by Minnesota Homeless Study data.

Sincerely,

Matt Traynor, Interim Executive Dir  
MN Coalition for the Homeless