



April 9, 2024

Chair Lindsey Port  
473 State Office Bldg. St.  
Paul, MN 55155

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

OutFront Minnesota writes in support of SF 4592 (Xiong) The Minnesota Homeless Study bill. OutFront Minnesota, founded in 1987, is the state's largest LGBTQ+ advocacy organization that has sought to build power within Minnesota's LGBTQ+ communities and address inequities through intersectional organizing, advocacy, education, and direct support services. We believe that this legislation is important to fostering a Minnesota that protects *all* of its residents.

Today, we support the Minnesota Homeless Study bill (SF 4592) which would be 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.

Homelessness disproportionately affects LGBTQ+ individuals, particularly trans and young people, who are often forced out of their homes after coming out to family and friends. They are often left unable to access housing and human services as well, which serves to exacerbate their issues in establishing independence. This study is important to the LGBTQ+ community. Furthermore, Minnesota has a long history of ensuring that LGBTQ+ individuals have the full protections and support of our state's laws; and SF 4592 will further Minnesota's leader as a national leader in LGBTQ+ rights and housing policy.

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. OutFront Minnesota calls on the committee to pass SF 4592 to ensure that the state continues to benefit from the insights provided by Minnesota Homeless Study data.



Sincerely,

Kat Rohn  
Executive Director  
OutFront Minnesota