



March 25, 2024

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

From: Janayah Bagurusi, Sr Director of Resident Services, Project for Pride in Living

Chair Port & Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of Project for Pride in Living 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.

Project for Pride in Living owns and manages approximately 1600 units of housing, and we provide supportive housing with services to approximately 800 of those households annually. The results of the homeless study directly impact our work by helping us understand the populations being the most effected so we can align our services and/or partnerships to best meet the needs of the community. As with many organizations, we rely on this data to help inform our work around improving systems and shaping policy to meet our mission of creating safe, resilient neighborhoods where residents are thriving, and their voices are heard.

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. Project for Pride in Living 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,

Janayah Bagurusi
Sr Director of Resident Services
Project for Pride in Living