



March 25, 2024

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

I am writing on behalf of the Youth Services Network (YSN) 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 information provided by the Homeless Study is incredibly helpful in the work to reduce and end all homelessness along with youth homelessness. It gives us the critical state-wide numbers we need to be able to assess whether homelessness is decreasing, what the current trends are and what we all need to do collectively as a state to reduce and end homelessness and what kinds of resources are needed which we can then work towards raising through public and private sector investments.

The Youth Services Network (YSN), 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,

Beth Holger 

Beth Holger & Katherine Meerse, Policy Sub-Committee Co-Chairs, YSN



St. Paul and Minneapolis



