



2309 Nicollet Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55404
612-874-0311 main | **612-874-0313** fax



April 15, 2024

Senator Lyndsey Port
Chair, Senate Housing and Homelessness Prevention

Senator Port,

I write to express Agate Housing and Services' support for SF4158, the Senate's housing finance omnibus bill. We are heartened to see that the Senate is continuing the hard work needed to end homelessness and bring all Minnesotans to a safe home and bright future. There are many elements of this bill that will support our work:

- Housing Infrastructure Bonds will continue efforts to build supportive and affordable housing needed to make long lasting solutions to end homelessness.
- Changes to 477A.35 will help ensure that last year's metro sales tax proceeds will preserve and expand opportunities to house people and keep people in their housing.
- Along with additional funding for the Family Homelessness Assistance and Prevention Program (FHPAP), the proposed changes to project the need for rental assistance and simplify procedures will speed up and improve our prevention and rapid rehousing programs funded by FHPAP.

Minnesota has been trending in the right direction, as a recent study from the Wilder Foundation demonstrated. However, Agate's family homelessness assessors are busier than ever, our shelters are continually full, and our outreach workers are busy serving a very high number of encampments throughout Minneapolis. The individuals and families we serve are learning to cope with a dangerous mix of substance abuse disorder, mental illness, and the instability of trauma and homelessness.

Thank you for advancing this legislation and your work to end homelessness for all Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kyle Hanson', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kyle Hanson
CEO/Executive Director
Agate Housing and Services