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March 13th, 2025

RE: SF 1732, Family Supportive Housing Services Bill

Dear Chair Wiklund and Members of the Housing and Homelessness Prevention Committee,

Agate Housing and Services appreciates the opportunity to support SF 1732, the Family Supportive Housing Services bill. This bill would directly help families experiencing homelessness or housing instability by filling the state funding gap for services for families in supportive housing.

Family supportive housing is critical to ending the experience of homelessness for families. When we provide subsidized housing with on-site services, families with children find relief from the exhausting cycle of survival through supportive housing. Stable housing allows parents and guardians to breathe and take a beat, rebuild, and focus on creating nurturing environments where children can learn, play and grow without worrying about where they will be the following day.

It is difficult to sustain or create new family supportive housing because there is no state source of funding for services for the entire family in supportive housing. The most effective way to provide services to a family is a holistic, comprehensive approach that provides case management, services, and programming for the entire family. This approach allows families to stay together and gives them the support they need to thrive.

Current state services programs focus only on funding individuals narrowly for their specific disabilities, which does not cover the comprehensive approach needed to support a family. The bill would create a flexible grant program that would fill this gap and result in stability for families.

Agate Housing and Services provides permanent supportive housing to hundreds of families everyday. We do this with a tenuous patchwork of public and private funding. However the scale of need is too high to bet with such scarce sources.

Thank you for your leadership and hope you can join us in supporting this SF1732, the family supportive housing services bill.

Thank You,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kyle Hanson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kyle Hanson Executive
Director
Agate Housing and Services