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March 13, 2025

Senator Zaynab Mohamed
2103 Minnesota Senate Building
Minnesota Senate Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Representative Brion Curran
5th Floor Centennial Office Building
Minnesota House of Representatives
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Senator Mohamed and Representative Curran,

I write to express Agate Housing and Services' support for SF 2124/HF 1914 (Bridge to Shelter Act), legislation that would provide much needed funding for Minnesota's homelessness response system. This critical piece of legislation takes a new revised statewide approach in helping further build out the system of supports to on the ground providers, counties and Tribal nations by creating separate buckets of funding to utilize as counties, tribes, and providers know one cannot succeed without the other and the need to provide separate sources funding is essential.

The Minnesotans we serve face numerous challenges, most of them structural. Our work involves supporting them as they navigate the social services systems, ensuring that they can meet their basic needs, and secure stable and dignified housing. Services like crisis response, diversion, outreach, low barrier shelter, and housing-focused case management are vital to the program success, all eligible under the Bridge to Shelter Act.

It is noteworthy that the COVID-19 pandemic and unprecedented funding in rental and housing assistance played a significant role. With that assistance gone, we would be unable to sustain our efforts and services we provide in ending homelessness. SF 2124/HF 1914 would mitigate that gap of funding and resources and would help continue our efforts in taking care of some of our most vulnerable population in our state.

Thank you for advancing this legislation and your work to ensure that, until we end homelessness, that it is rare, brief, and non-reoccurring.

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