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RE: SF 2124, Emergency services grants and innovative homeless response grants and provider building capacity appropriations

Dear Chair Wiklund and Committee Members,

I am the Director of Align Minneapolis, an interfaith coalition of 18 faith congregations and people with lived experiences of homelessness working to address homelessness in Minneapolis. We believe that addressing homelessness is done by meeting immediate needs of our homeless and housing insecure neighbors, *and* through policy change and significant investment in the homeless response system and across housing spectrum. People experiencing homelessness know what works for them to get housed, and it includes services to help them along in their journey to housing and navigating the complicated systems. In our work we have seen firsthand the incredibly positive impact that homeless response services including crisis response, 24/7 shelter, and housing-focused case management have had on people experiencing homelessness. We know people who were experiencing homelessness, sometimes for many years, who were able to get housed and stay stable because of these services, provided by Hennepin County.

Our organization is incredibly supportive of SF 2124, as we know it will help maintain the services that work for people and contribute to ending homelessness. We appreciate that you are holding a hearing on this bill and ask you to support this bill and continue to move it forward.

Sincerely,

Katie Dillon

Director, Align Minneapolis | *Congregations Addressing Homelessness Together*