

HENNEPIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 13, 2025

Senator Melissa Wiklund
Chair, Health and Human Services Committee
2107 Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Ave. W
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Wiklund and members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

Thank you for taking the time to hear SF2124 authored by Senator Mohamed. I write in strong support of this legislation.

Hennepin County has invested significantly to reduce homelessness for our residents, including more than \$91million of our pandemic relief funds. We have invested in proven strategies, including increasing the supply of affordable housing and eviction prevention, housing focused case management, and homelessness recovery services. In Hennepin County, we believe that homelessness should be rare, brief, and non-recurring and strive to make that a reality for our residents.

We know that our methods are impactful because last fall, Hennepin County was honored to announce we have a homelessness response system in place that can respond and re-house veterans in less than 90 days if they experience homelessness. As a result, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) have certified that we are meeting their benchmarks for effectively ending homelessness among veterans.

Hennepin County is unique in our *Shelter All Family* policy – we believe that no child should sleep outside and work to prioritize families with children in our emergency shelter system. Our investment in our homelessness response system is rooted in both our values and in proven strategies.

I am grateful for your consideration of SF2124 and encourage your support.

Sincerely,



Irene Fernando
Hennepin County Board of Commissioners

Irene Fernando, Chair
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