



333 12th Street South
Minneapolis, MN 55404
info@alignmpls.org

Senator Lindsay Port
Chair, Committee on Housing and Homelessness Prevention
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3213
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: SF 1511, Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program appropriation

Dear Chair Port 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 know that one of the most effective ways to address homelessness is by preventing homelessness from occurring with financial assistance to help households get caught up on back-due rent and avoid eviction. We have an Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) program and see many households struggling to make ends meet because of lack of affordable housing and inadequate resources to help them weather even a short-term financial crisis. What we hear from our ERA program applicants is how difficult it is to find help to get caught up on back-due rent and how necessary it is to stabilize and move forward.

The Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program is a critical community resource that needs adequate funding to meet the needs of the community. This program has been a necessary community resource for people who have fallen behind on rent and are facing housing instability. We encourage you to support bill SF 1511 and the funding needed to prevent more people falling into homelessness. Thank you for hearing this bill and your work to address homelessness and housing instability.

Sincerely,

Katie Dillon

Director, Align Minneapolis | *Congregations Addressing Homelessness Together*