



March 20th, 2025

RE: SF 2214 Minnesota homeless study money transfer and appropriation

Chair Port and Committee Members,

I am writing on behalf of the Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative to express our strong support for Sen. Hoffman's bill, SF 2214, which appropriates funding for the Minnesota Homeless Study. The study has been a critical resource in understanding and addressing homelessness in Minnesota since 1991. It is unique in the United States in its partnership with tribal communities, as well as the comprehensive nature of the publicly available data collected over more than 30 years. The study is used to prioritize needs, identify systemic issues, and improve programs and policies to address homelessness in our state. Investment in this study represents incredible value, as the information is used to leverage and prioritize multiple other policies for Minnesotans impacted by homelessness, ensuring that investments made are impactful in the long term.

Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative is a nonprofit housing provider and developer with 24 buildings that offer affordable homes to over 1,200 people. We primarily operate supportive housing, which provides safe, affordable, and stable housing with on-site services for the most vulnerable Minnesotans who have experienced homelessness.

Permanent supportive housing, also referred to as "supportive housing," provides safe, affordable, and stable housing with on-site services. Housing is available to families, individuals, and unaccompanied youth and young adults who are at risk of or are already experiencing homelessness. The goal is for residents to gain stability, maintain their housing, and achieve their personal goals.

The Minnesota Homeless Study and its companion, the Reservation Homeless Study, are invaluable resources for anyone working to address homelessness and housing instability across the state. This includes state, county, and city officials, as well as homeless service providers who are on the front lines supporting those individuals and communities most impacted by homelessness. Additionally, it encompasses organizations that homeless individuals and families access for non-housing related services, such as healthcare, transportation services, and schools.

Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative calls on the committee to pass SF 2214 to ensure that the state continues to benefit from the insights provided by Minnesota Homeless Study data.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Benjamin Helvick Anderson".

Benjamin Helvick Anderson
VP of Policy and Organizing
Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative