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March 4, 2025

To: Chair Port and members of the Senate Housing & Homelessness Prevention Committee

From: Brian Pittman and Flor Frey, Frey Foundation of Minnesota

Chair Port and Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of The Frey Foundation of Minnesota to express our strong support for SF 2214/HF 2276, appropriating 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. We ask that the state of Minnesota join the Frey Foundation of Minnesota's investment in this research.

Over the last 27 years, the Frey Foundation has invested more than \$75 million to support housing stability, education, and related services in Twin Cities metro communities. We invest in Minnesota Homeless Study because it represents incredible value that ensures effective investments and interventions in those communities. In partnership with our community grantees, the work to achieve our vision of a more equitable, strong, and self-sufficient community would not be possible without the deeply valuable Minnesota Homeless Study data.

- Our grantee partners use the data in their applications and to plan their strategies and services. The study equips these organizations to not only tell the top-line story of need in the state of Minnesota but gives the depth and granularity of data to effectively show how their interventions will address key aspects of the issue.
- We use the data to help coordinate strategies and funding through partnerships like the Heading Home Funders Collaborative. When working with other philanthropic foundations that fund housing and homelessness services, it is not only important to know what each other is doing, but how we can coordinate our funding to best address key issues. The study data allows us to see our funding in relationship to the needs of the community.
- The study supports a community of data and practice that drives innovation and effectiveness in the sector. Being in community with practitioners, funders, and government agencies, we have witnessed that the study findings and data are frequently at the center of the conversation, discourse, and planning about how to improve the lives of Minnesotans.

The Minnesota Homeless Study and the companion Reservation Homeless Study are invaluable resources for anyone working to address homelessness and housing justice across the state. The Frey Foundation of Minnesota calls on the committee to pass SF 2214/HF 2276 to ensure that the state continues to benefit from the insights provided by Minnesota Homeless Study data.

Sincerely,
Brian Pittman, Impact Director | Housing
Flor Frey, President
Frey Foundation of Minnesota