

March 10, 2025`

Dear Chair Port and members of the Senate Housing & Homelessness Prevention Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Greater Twin Cities United Way to express our strong support for SF 2214/HF2276, 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. An investment into this study represents incredible value, as the information is used to leverage and prioritize multiple other policies for Minnesotans impacted by homelessness and ensure that investments made are impactful long-term.

The Minnesota Homeless Study and the companion Reservation Homeless Study are invaluable resources for anyone working to address homelessness and housing instability across the state. At Greater Twin Cities United Way, we recognize that the level of detail in the Minnesota Homeless Study is truly unparalleled in the housing field, helping us to target programs and investments toward the communities most impacted by homelessness and housing instability. We call on this committee to pass SF2214/HF 2276 to ensure that the state continues to benefit from the insights provided by the Minnesota Homeless Study data.

Sincerely,

Stephannie L. Lewis

Associate Vice President, Advocacy & Community Impact

Greater Twin Cities United Way