



LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR HOMELESS STUDY |

February 12th, 2025

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

From: Julee Jackson, Outreach Coordinator, Grace House Itasca Area Homeless Shelter

Chair Port and Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of Grace House, Itasca Area Homeless Shelter 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. 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 Wilder Study is used to gather in-depth information on what homelessness looks like in Minnesota. We use this study to better understand what rural homelessness looks like in greater Minnesota. The results are used for planning and implementing programs to help end homelessness. If this study ended, we would not have access to the qualitative data that it provides that is used in many of our grants. Housing providers could potentially lose funding for essential housing services such as shelter if the Wilder Study ends.

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. This includes state, county, and city officials, homeless service providers who are on the front lines supporting those individuals and communities most impacted by homelessness, and organizations that homeless individuals and families access for non-housing related services, such as healthcare, transportation services, and schools. The Grace House Itasca Area Homeless Shelter, 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,

Julee Jackson
Outreach Coordinator
Grace House, Itasca Area Homeless Shelter