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To: Chair Port and members of the Senate Housing & Homelessness Prevention Committee
Co-Chairs Igo and Howard, and members of the House Housing Finance & Policy Committee

From: Michael Dahl, Public Policy Director, HOME Line

Date: March 14, 2025

I am writing on behalf of HOME Line to express our strong support for Senate File 2214 and House File 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.

For context of the impact that the Minnesota Homeless Study has on our organization, HOME Line provides free legal advice through our tenant hotline to ensure that tenants throughout Minnesota can solve their own rental housing problems. The tenants who call us face a variety of issues that directly impact their ability to remain in their homes, including eviction concerns, emergency repairs, and discrimination during the rental screening process. Having the capacity to track incidents of homelessness proves vital to HOME Line's understanding of how a variety of factors within the housing continuum contributes to housing stability – and this would not be possible without the extensive data provided by the Minnesota Homeless Study.

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. HOME Line, calls on the committees to pass Senate File 2214 and its eventual companion in the Minnesota House to ensure that the state continues to benefit from the insights provided by Minnesota Homeless Study data.