

02/24/2025



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

From: Rozanne Casey KOOTASCA Community Action Director of Housing

Chair Port and Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of KOOTASCA 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. Investment in 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.

KOOTASCA uses the data collected from the study to support on-going funding and during the RFP application process of future funding. The Wilder Homeless Study is a data source that provides a thorough picture of quantitative data, that locally we can support with qualitative data. This study opens a segway for opportunities of conversations with folks experiencing homelessness that can be shared locally and nationally.

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. KOOTASCA Community Action 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rozanne M Casey".

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