

Chair Port and Committee Members:

The MN Coalition for the Homeless (MCH) is a statewide organization dedicated to advocating for policies and resources to end homelessness. I am writing on behalf of 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.

MCH and our member organizations rely on this study to give an accurate representation of the current state of homelessness in Minnesota. The method used in the study is far superior to other homeless counts and provides much more tangible evidence of whether we are making progress in ending homelessness or not. MCH in particular uses this information to help set our legislative agenda and to educate key decision makers on the causes and solutions for homelessness. Without this information, Minnesota would not be able to prove their investments are working OR show the need for more investments to end homelessness.

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. MCH 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,

Matt Traynor

Interim Executive Director & Director of Advocacy
MN Coalition for the Homeless