



NORTHEAST MN
CONTINUUM OF CARE

March 3, 2025

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

From: Rozanne Casey, Chair, Northeast Minnesota Continuum of Care

Chair Port and Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of the Northeast Minnesota Continuum of Care (NE CoC) 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 NE CoC and our member agencies rely on the data from the Wilder study to inform planning for our homeless response system, apply for grant funding, and make programmatic changes to better align with the needs of those experiencing homelessness in our region. This study has been invaluable to our planning and advocacy efforts for ending homelessness across the region. This study helps us make data-driven decisions, identify gaps in services, and advocate for necessary resources to improve our homeless response system.

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 NE CoC 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,

Rozanne Casey
Chair
Northeast Minnesota Continuum of Care