

Dear Minnesota Housing and Homelessness Prevention Committee Members:

My name is Dr. Robert Shumer and I am writing in support of the [SF 2792](#). As someone who has been involved in the service-learning and youth civic education movement in Minnesota and the US for more than 40 years, I commend Senator Mohamed for leading the way on this bill. I urge you to support it.

Extensive research shows the value of giving young people opportunities to help solve local problems as part of their course work. The program at the GAP contract alternative school is a wonderful example. Arming young people with the research, knowledge, and programs to address issues such as reducing homelessness is perhaps one of the most cost-effective ways of creating long-term solutions to the problem. Minnesota is very lucky to have the people, resources, and organizations that do this.

I am very impressed by the program at the GAP contract alternative school in St Paul. Further information about their excellent program is found in this excellent [KSTP TV story](#). GAP simultaneously helps young people who might, without intervention become homeless, and helps produce more affordable housing. I strongly urge you to approve this bill.

Sincerely,
Robert Shumer, Ph.D.
Metropolitan State University (Community Faculty)