

March 29, 2023

Chair Pinto
Vice Chair Keeler
Members of the Children & Families Finance & Policy Committee

Dear Chair Pinto, Vice Chair Keeler, and members of the Children & Families Finance & Policy Committee:

The Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless (MCH) is writing on behalf of our advocates and partners to express tremendous gratitude and thanks for HF238. In particular, we want to lift up the items included in the Pathway Home Act, as it will truly allow us to save lives and bring us closer to ending homelessness.

We want to highlight that many of the policy and funding priorities included in this budget (shelter capital, Emergency Services Program, Transitional Housing Program, Homeless Youth Act, etc) have been lifted up by people with lived experience, partner organizations, and MCH. Until recently, we have made minor progress in securing the funding needed to meet the true needs of people experiencing homelessness across Minnesota. **However, thanks to your leadership, we are on the cusp of making transformative investments that will positively change lives and communities. Over the past few years, your desire for community input, in particular from communities closest to the issue of homelessness, has helped shape the strongest legislation we have ever seen for ending unsheltered homelessness and for creating a pathway home.**

The Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless sets our legislative agenda through listening sessions with people who are or have experienced homelessness and in partnership with the statewide network of organizations doing everything they can to offer support to people. In addition to this, we have a leadership team of individuals with lived experience and frontline workers that are deeply engaged as decision-makers in our advocacy. Your funding priorities match what MCH has heard time and again in this process: people need access to safe, dignified, accessible, and culturally-responsive shelter and services.

On behalf of the 80 organizations who have signed onto this letter (which would be even more if we had additional time), thank you for your leadership. Shelter saves lives and that is exactly what you are doing by championing and including the Pathway Home Act in HF238.

Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC)
City of Duluth
City of Minneapolis
City of Rochester - Mayor
Dakota County, Community Services
Hennepin County: Homeless Access Team
Minnesota Tribal Collaborative
Morrison County Health and Human Services
Olmsted County
Sherburne County, MN
Suburban Metro Area Continuum of Care (SMAC)
Director's Council
Washington County Community Services
American Association of University Women - Mpls
Branch

Lived Experience Advocacy Network (LEAN)
Northwest Minnesota Foundation
PERIS Foundation
ThinkSelf Minnesota Deaf Adult Education &
Advocacy
Stable Housing is the Priority (SHIP Collaborative)
Violence Free Minnesota
Youth and AIDS Projects
Youth Health and Housing Lab at University of
Minnesota
Zumbro Valley Medical Society
Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless
Agate Housing & Services
Ain Dah Yung (Our Home) Center
LIST CONTINUES ON THE NEXT PAGE

Align Minneapolis
Aliveness Project
Alluma, Inc.
Anna Marie's Alliance
Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency
Avenues for Youth
Avivo
CADA, Inc.
CAPLP
Care and share.Inc. Crookston, Minnesota.
Catholic Charities Twin Cities
Center City Housing Corp.
Chum
CloseKnit
Community Action Center Northfield
Connections Ministry and Shelter, Mankato, MN
Connections Shelter
Dakota Woodlands
Faith In Housing
Family Promise in Anoka County
Freedom From The Streets & No More
Streets
Good Samaritan United Methodist Church of Edina
Grace House of Itasca County, Homeless Shelter
Haven Housing
Hope Coalition
Listening House of St. Paul
Loaves and Fishes Community
Lumen Christi Catholic Community
Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota
MAHUBE-OTWA Community Action Partnership
MICAHA- Metropolitan Interfaith Council on
Affordable Housing
Minnesota Community Care
Missions Inc. Programs
Nameless Coalition for the Homeless
New Pathways, Inc.
Oasis Central Minnesota
Open Access Connections
Open Doors for Youth
Open Your Heart to the Hungry and Homeless
Our Saviour's Community Services
Partners for Housing; Mankato, Minnesota
Phumulani Minnesota African Women Against
Violence Violence
Range Transitional Housing, Inc.
Safe Haven Shelter & Resource Center
Servants of Shelter of Koochiching County
Simpson Housing Services, Inc.

Solid Ground
Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership
The Bridge for Youth
The Dignity Center
The Link
Three Rivers Community Action
Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities
West Central Minnesota Continuum of Care
West Central MN Communities Action