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MARCH 6, 2023  
CHAIR WIKLUND  
MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Dear Members of the Health & Human Services Committee,

I am writing as the director of Minnesota's HMIS to express support for SF2033, the Heading Home Ramsey bill. As the state system administrator of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), we help planners and policy makers understand the programs in their communities in concert through dashboarding like [the MN Dash to End Homelessness](#).

With the temporary funding made available during the pandemic, they helped more individuals and families experiencing homelessness through innovation and creative partnerships like the Model Cities warming center.

Still, we know that the service providers in Ramsey County are both dedicated and stretched thin. They are lacking a dedicated women's shelter facility and, out of necessity, maintain a nightly lottery system for their shelters. While I support all bill proposals, I want to express particular enthusiasm for the system improvements mentioned:

- Ramsey County's shelters could operate in more efficiently by standing up a single point-of-entry system within HMIS for folks who need a shelter bed each night. HMIS is the data infrastructure through which service providers refer individuals and families to available housing units already.
- With this funding, Ramsey County can also utilize our tools to connect unhoused individuals in need of a shelter bed to a reservation.
- A single point-of-entry helps utilize available beds more completely and effectively, reduces administrative burden for shelter staff, and offers a more dignified experience for those seeking shelter.

Thank you for your efforts. Please pass SF2033.

Reverently,



BRITT HEINZ-AMBORN, MPP  
HMIS DIRECTOR