



City of Duluth
Emily Larson, Mayor

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March 30, 2016

Matt Dean, Chair Health & Human Services Finance
100 Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
401 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Mr. Dean,

Though the community may not literally see homeless and street youth, Duluth faces an acute shortage of shelter beds and transitional housing for this vulnerable population. According to Wilder Research estimates, on any given night in St. Louis County, there are approximately 125-175 homeless youth on the streets, in cars, subjected to sexual exploitation for shelter, or squatting in buildings not fit for human habitation. Further, Life House serves as the primary Coordinated Entry access point for homeless youth in the region and, as of March 2016, **almost 100 youth age 16-24 are on the waiting list.** The need for additional shelter & transitional housing units for homeless youth, who face so many more barriers to success than simply housing, cannot be understated.

Life House has approached the City, after conversations with Representative Jennifer Schultz and former Lieutenant Governor Yvonne Prettner Solon, regarding bill HF 2233 to request a hearing before the Health & Human Services Finance Committee. I have strongly encouraged them to move forward with this request.

Thank you for your time and commitment to this issue.

Sincerely,



Emily Larson
Mayor