

102 W. 1st Street Duluth, MN 55802 OFFICE (218) 722-7431 FRX (218) 722-0850

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Greetings Chair Pinto and Members of the Children and Families Finance and Policy Committee,

Thank you for your commitment and being foundational advocates in supporting youth survivors of sexual exploitation and/or human trafficking.

Life House serves over 850 unduplicated youth and young families' ages 14 to 24 annually who are unstably housed and navigating life circumstances such as being survivors of commercial sexual exploitation and/or human trafficking. House File 1858 is a vital component to what supports our comprehensive supportive services for our young people fleeing their environments and begin their healing as survivors of sexual exploitation. We are acutely aware of the impact in providing comprehensive supportive service to youth, which includes a mental health and wellness team, as well as education and employment support. By offering wraparound services to youth, it provides them a way to heal and thrive in life. These youth are some of our most vulnerable young people, and our programs have been one of the most effective means to lifting them up and witnessing them excel in life.

Life House has a licensed residential site, Sol House, for youth ages 15 to 19 who are survivors of sexual exploitation and/or human trafficking. Youth can stay at Sol House for up to 2 years, where they have access to all our supportive services at no-cost, nor insurance needed. In 2020, we launched Northern Lights, which provides housing for youth survivors ages 18 to 24, who are needing a stable housing environment along with our supportive services. Life House also provides an After-care Advocate, so young people have additional support once they transition out of our housing programs.

Life House is grateful for our partnership with the Minnesota Safe Harbor network and other community partners working to support our youth throughout the state. Please support of HF 1858 which provides the necessary increase in funding to enhance our services in working with young survivors in our community and throughout the state. This funding is an investment in our future generations.

Thank you for your commitment to supporting our youth and their healing journey.

With gratitude,

Jordon Eunsion-Chisti

Jordon Eunison-Chisti, PhD Executive Director



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