



2309 Nicollet Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55404
612-874-0311 main | 612-874-0313 fax



April 1, 2024

Human Services Finance Committee
379 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: HF5200 Simplify State-Funded Supportive Housing Resources

Dear Chair Noor and Members of the Human Services Finance Committee,

Today, conflicting eligibility criteria, administrative complexities, staff shortages, limited access to resources, and misaligned funding distribution jeopardize the sustainability of state-funded supportive housing projects, putting long term solutions to homelessness and housing stability for thousands of Minnesotans at risk.

I write to express strong support for HF5200, which aims to streamline access, eligibility, and administration of multiple state-funded supportive housing resources for individuals experiencing homelessness in Minnesota.

Agate Housing and Services provides emergency services including outreach, shelter, hunger relief and a large amount of permanent supportive housing. Serving nearly 800 people in scattered and site-based housing, the overly complicated supportive housing system impacts our work severely. Because we are part of the Housing Trust Fund rental assistance only program, we must struggle to find up to \$600,000 a year to provide vital services for the participants, who have all experienced long-term homelessness. With changes in the availability of foundation funding, we have not been able to secure the funding needed. We have used too much of our agency reserves to support the supportive services needed. We are very close to cutting the Housing Trust Fund program. To keep it going we have been forced to do the best we can with inadequate Housing Specialization Services funds, which do not cover all of the services needed. Because of this, we are only serving 75 families when have subsidies for up to 126.

We are also one of the largest providers of Housing Supports. Delays in billing and paperwork demands reduce the time our case managers have to provide direct services.

The bill outlines several key objectives that highlight our shared goals, including:

1. Reducing Administrative Complexities: By naming current processes and identifying areas of improvement, we can simplify bureaucratic hurdles and ensure that supportive housing resources reach those who need them most efficiently.



2309 Nicollet Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55404
612-874-0311 main | 612-874-0313 fax



2. Enhancing Equity and Accessibility: It is essential that all eligible individuals have equal access to supportive housing. This bill seeks to address disparities and promote equitable distribution of resources.

3. Streamlining Eligibility Criteria, Paperwork, and Funding Distribution: Streamlining these criteria will expedite access to supportive housing services.

4. Accelerating Transitions from Homelessness to Sustainable Solutions: Our ultimate goal is to reduce barriers and support individuals to move from homelessness toward stable, long-term housing solutions.

I urge you to support HF5200 to help simplify Minnesota's complex array of state-funded supportive housing resources. The proposed workgroup, comprised of representatives from various agencies and organizations across the state, including people with lived experience, will play a pivotal role in shaping effective policies and guide us toward practical long-term solutions to homelessness.

Thank you for your public service and consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kyle Hanson', written over a white background.

Kyle Hanson
Executive Director
Agate Housing and Services