

Dear Committee Members,

This is a thanks and a request that there be two potential additions to HF 294, regarding an updated study of homeless youth, We are very, very grateful to the author for elevating the issue. For much too long, the issue of homeless youth has NOT received the attention it deserves. Research by among others [Dr. Thomas Kottke of Health Partners](#) and others has documented the potential lifelong impact of homelessness. He concluded that "Homelessness and housing insecurity create a vicious cycle that destroys well-being and can be fatal...Children who are homeless or housing insecure exhibit more antisocial behavior, less prosocial behavior, more sleep problems, and difficulty advancing in school."

We request that

- a. In section 1 - Mn Dept of Education data about the number of homeless youth be included as one, not the only but one key source of information. The current bill does not include MDE data as a source of information. The MDE data is part of an existing required report from every district & charter public school. We've found that some agencies do not know this information is being gathered. We also note that the number in MDE's reports reflect only the number of homeless children and youth on one day. Many districts say they are serving 2-3 times the number of homeless/children and youth that are reflected in the October count. Nevertheless, we believe this data is vital to include - and it already is being gathered.
- b. In section 2, the experience of [YouthBuild](#) be included as a source of information and possible recommendations. Via YouthBuild, Minnesota youth learning construction skills as they either build homes for the homeless or fix up existing home and apartments so that they are suitable for young people

Again, thanks to the author and to the committee for considering this important bill. Dealing effectively with the issue of youth/child homeless is both the economically wise and the morally correct thing to do. This is a targeted investment that will have huge, long run positive impacts.

Faith Dietz, Community Advocate and HR Professional, St Paul
Aaliyah Hodge MPP Northsider, formerly homeless
Zeke Jackson, 20, University of Minnesota student
Wayne Jennings, Retired, 60 year Mn public school teacher, administrator, school board member, author
Thomas Kottke, MD, MSPH
Brook LaFloe, Indigenous Leader & Advocate, Niniijaanis One of Ones Owner and Operator
Jonette M. Lucia, MMA, Northwest Hennepin Family Service Collaborative, Retired Coordinator
MICAH- Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing
Joe Nathan, PhD and Director, Center for School Change
Carin Peterson, Sheridan Neighborhood Org

John Poupart, President, American Indian Policy Center (retired)

Jane Prince, City Council Member, Ward 7, St Paul

Sheri Riemers, Government & Community Relations Director, Ain Dah Yung Center

Lily Tharoor - Falcon Heights

David and Barb Tilsen, Minneapolis (Dave formerly was a Mpls School Board member)

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