



April 2, 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,

Project for Pride in Living supports [HF5200], which aims to streamline access, eligibility, and administration of multiple state-funded supportive housing resources for individuals experiencing homelessness in Minnesota.

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.

For over 50 years, PPL has worked to build the hope, assets, and self-reliance of individuals and families who have lower incomes by providing transformative affordable housing and career readiness services. PPL owns, manages or provides services for 1600 units of affordable housing in which close to 3,500 folks spend the night under a PPL roof every night, nearly half of them children. Half of our units are supportive housing, serving households making 30% or less of area median income. Many of our supportive housing residents have experienced various forms of housing insecurity including chronic homelessness, and face huge barriers to getting safe, quality and reliable housing. Consistent and reliable funding that ensures these services are available is a critical component of stability for the households who live in our housing.

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.
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,

Paul Williams,
President and CEO
Project for Pride in Living, Inc.