

**March 22, 2023**

**Support for HF 2492 from Tony Simmons**

To: Chair, Rep Cheryl Youakim, Vice Chair, Rep Mary Frances Clardy, and Members of the Mn House School Finance Committee

From: Tony Simmons:

My name is Tony Simmons and I am the Executive Director of the High School for Recording Arts in St. Paul, Minnesota. I am writing to strongly support HF 2492. More than 30% of our students experience homelessness at some time during the year. We have explored various options to provide them with more permanent housing as they strongly resist being in temporary shelters.

We also are well known as a school that engages students in real world projects. Junior Achievement named us as the nation's finest school based business several years ago because we help students develop public service announcements, Youtube videos and other productions under contracts from organizations such as Verizon Wireless, Minnesota Office of Higher Education and State Farm Insurance.

We would very much like to add to the hands-on learning opportunities for students in the area of construction as they build one or more homes for people experiencing homelessness. Please DO approve HF 2492.

Sincerely,  
Tony Simmons  
Executive Director, High School for Recording Arts