



DOING THE MOST GOOD

HARBOR LIGHT CENTER

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March 13, 2025

Senator Zaynab Mohamed
2103 Minnesota Senate Building
Minnesota Senate Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Representative Brion Curran
5th Floor Centennial Office Building
Minnesota House of Representatives
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Senator Mohamed and Representative Curran,

I am writing to express my strong support for SF 2124/HF 1914, the Bridge to Shelter Act, which would provide much-needed funding for Minnesota's homelessness response system. This critical legislation introduces a revised, statewide approach to strengthening the system of support for on-the-ground providers, counties, and Tribal nations. By creating separate funding streams, the bill acknowledges that counties, tribes, and service providers must work together while maintaining distinct resources to meet their unique needs.

The Minnesotans we serve face numerous structural challenges. Our work involves guiding them through social service systems, ensuring they can meet their basic needs, and helping them secure stable, dignified housing. Essential services such as crisis response, diversion, outreach, low-barrier shelter, and housing-focused case management—all of which are eligible for funding under the Bridge to Shelter Act—are crucial to the success of these efforts.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the unprecedented levels of rental and housing assistance funding provided during that time played a vital role in addressing homelessness. However, with that assistance no longer available, sustaining our services has become increasingly challenging. SF 2124/HF 1914 would help bridge this funding gap, allowing us to continue supporting some of our state's most vulnerable residents.

Thank you for advancing this important legislation and for your commitment to ensuring that homelessness remains rare, brief, and non-recurring until it is ended.

Sincerely,

Dellanna Harper Steele MSW, LGSW
Executive Director Harbor Light
The Salvation Army
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