



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,

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.

The Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV) is a statewide nonprofit dedicated to ending Veteran homelessness. We strive to meet this goal by providing a plethora of services and support to Veterans experiencing homelessness or housing instability. MACV partners closely with State and Federal agencies to coordinate and remove system and individual barriers. Due to this system gap, MACV recently launched a Documentation Specialist program – to support Veterans through the system complexities and gather appropriate documentation to enroll in services or enter housing. We support this bill because it will address these barriers in a more comprehensive way, for all Minnesotans.

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 HF 5200 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,

Lindsey Hofer, Program Director

Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans