



May 3, 2023

Re: LMC Comments on SF 2995

Dear Chair Wiklund, Chair Lieblich, and members of the Health and Human Services omnibus bill conference committee:

The League of Minnesota Cities, representing 837 of Minnesota's 854 cities, appreciates the opportunity to submit comments related to the provisions included in the House and Senate versions of SF 2995 and would ask the committee to consider the following items of interest to Minnesota cities:

Advisory Council on Water Supply Systems and Wastewater Treatment Facilities: The reestablishment of the Advisory Council on Water Supply Systems and Wastewater Treatment Facilities is included in the House version (UES2995-2): Section 34, lines 123.1-124.3), but not the Senate version. This body is a non-controversial group that advises state agencies on training and certification issues related to operators or water and wastewater systems. It was allowed to sunset several biennia ago and should be reinstated. The League requests that the House language be adopted.

Strengthening Public Water System Infrastructure: The funding for grants for Strengthening Public Water System Infrastructure is currently in the Senate version (S2995-3, Section 33, lines 177.23-178.14) but not in the House version. These funds are badly needed to help public water suppliers meet climate adaptability challenges and new federal system security, resiliency, and reliability requirements. The League supports the Strengthening Public Water System Infrastructure grants program and requests that the Senate language and funding be included.

Emergency Shelter Grants: The League of Minnesota Cities supports the inclusion of \$150 million in one-time funding for Emergency Shelter Grants in the House bill. Cities across the state have an immense need for additional shelter space to address homelessness challenges and the \$150 million provided in the House bill would create or preserve over 3400 shelter spaces. We urge the conference committee to include at least \$150 million in funding for the Emergency Shelter Grant program in the final proposal.

We appreciate the time and attention the legislature has spent considering these issues and stand ready to provide whatever input or answers to questions that the conference committee would find helpful in resolving the differences in the bills.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Craig A. Johnson'.

Craig Johnson
Intergovernmental Relations Representative
League of Minnesota Cities

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Daniel Lightfoot'.

Daniel Lightfoot
Intergovernmental Relations Representative
League of Minnesota Cities