

March 28, 2022

Representative Schultz and Members  
Chair of the Committee on Human Services Finance and Policy

Re: HF 4427 – Feist: Hennepin County; persons experiencing homelessness

Dear Chair Schultz and Members,

The City of Minneapolis appreciates the opportunity to comment in support of HF 4427.

The City of Minneapolis partners with Hennepin County to respond to homelessness in our community. Since the start of the pandemic, the City and County have jointly committed \$17.5 million in federal Emergency Solutions Grant COVID response dollars (ESG-CV) to fund shelter site acquisition, 24/7 shelter operations, outreach, diversion and rapid rehousing. The City alone has committed nearly \$38 million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for housing and homelessness response. This is in addition to the more than \$45 million in ARPA funds committed by Hennepin County.

The investments that the City, County and State have made together have significantly improved the existing shelter system. Shelters now operate 24 hours per day, seven days per week. They are healthier, thanks to capital improvements. There are more housing focused case managers serving both people in shelters and people who are unsheltered. We have three new, low barrier and culturally specific shelters designed to meet needs identified by persons with lived experience of homelessness.

The funding in HF 4427 is critical to ensuring that these improvements in the homeless response system continue for the long-term. Homelessness is a statewide issue. The City of Minneapolis, in partnership with Hennepin County, is more than willing to do its part in meeting the needs of those who are unhoused, but we cannot do it without support from the State of Minnesota.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Fatima Moore  
Director, Intergovernmental Relations  
City of Minneapolis