



**TURNING LIVES AROUND.**

3/27/2025

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

180 Degrees is writing to express our strong support for HF 2068/SF 5293. We greatly appreciate all of the past investments for the Homeless Youth Act and within this bill that provide critically needed additional funds to support those most vulnerable in our state - youth experiencing homelessness.

180 Degrees provides a continuum of services, emergency shelter, outreach, and aftercare services for youth experiencing homelessness, who have been sexually exploited or trafficked, and/or who are involved in the juvenile justice and foster care systems. We are part of a broader state-wide coalition of youth service providers called the Youth Services Network (YSN). 180 Degrees, along with the YSN, has been advocating towards ending youth homelessness and sex trafficking for a number of years and the amounts outlined within this bill for the Homeless Youth Act (a \$14 million increase over the next biennium) would make a life changing and, in many cases, life-saving impact.

Youth homelessness is a very real issue within our state, and we are so grateful that the House and Senate has recognized this within the introduction of HF 2068 and SF 5293. On any given night there are 4,872 unaccompanied youth who are experiencing homelessness. These are young people who become homeless due to many reasons - we see youth who are kicked out due to their sexual orientation or gender identity, youth who are falling through the cracks or aging out of the foster care system and more. We see youth who are then forced to make difficult decisions in order to survive: some choosing to sleep in cars, go between libraries and public transportation, live in an encampment, find a doorway of a building or an abandoned building to live out of, or trade sex for a place to sleep.

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**YOUTH SHELTER AND HOUSING  
COMMUNITY RE-ENTRY  
SUPPORTIVE SERVICES**



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Minnesota children and youth deserve a safe and stable place to live and support with accomplishing the goals that they have for themselves. We have an incredible opportunity to reduce youth homelessness and sex trafficking in our state by supporting the amounts allocated for the Homeless Youth Act and Safe Harbor within HF 2068 and SF 5293!

We cannot thank you enough for your support for all people experiencing homelessness in our state.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

*Dan Pfarr*

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Dan Pfarr

CEO

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