

1/18/2023

Chair Noor

Members of the Human Services Finance Committee

Dear Chair Noor and members of the Human Services Finance committee,

I am writing to express support for the Pathway Home Act bill (HF444). As the director of Family Promise in Anoka County, a program for families that helps them achieve long-term housing stability, I have seen the great need in our community. I am thankful this bill has been introduced to help address some of these needs.

Like most communities across the state, Anoka County has historically had no dedicated shelter space for families who wish to stay together while working toward lasting, sustainable housing. For nearly 10 years, our organization filled a shelter need using a rotation of local faith communities to provide a safe overnight space to stay. Covid-19 forced a transition to extended stay hotels, while we have also been working to create what we know is truly needed for our community – a permanent, stable shelter space for families experiencing homelessness.

The funding in the Pathway Home Act directly supporting shelter expansion is critical for organizations like ours across the state and the families we serve. While funding is not the only concern (zoning may be an even bigger barrier in some areas, like ours), this bill will create opportunities for organizations like ours to create innovative, dignified, and trauma-informed family shelter spaces that do not currently exist.

I truly appreciate the leadership and vision that created the Pathway Home Act. I believe its passage would not only help those with critical needs in our community but elevate Minnesota as a leader in caring and support for people struggling with housing insecurity. Ending homelessness in our state is achievable, and the Pathway Home Act helps us take a big step toward that goal.

Peace,



David Frei

Executive Director

Family Promise in Anoka County