



2355 Fairview Ave #139, Roseville, MN 55113  
www.metrodoctors.com | 612-623-2885

*The mission of the Twin Cities Medical Society is to connect, represent, and engage physicians in improving the practice of medicine, policy development and public health initiatives.*

Representative Aisha Gomez, Chair, Preventing Homelessness Division  
*Via Electronic Delivery*  
February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

**Re: Support for H.F. 42 (COVID-19 Relief for Emergency Shelters and Housing Support)**

Chair Gomez, Vice Chair Keeler, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Twin Cities Medical Society in support of H.F. 42, the proposed bill to further support Minnesotans experiencing or at risk of homelessness across the state during the COVID19 pandemic. Twin Cities Medical Society (TCMS) is an organization that represents over 4,500 physicians and medical students living and working in the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area.

Our physician members are all too familiar with the disproportionate health risks and disparities that Minnesotans at risk of homelessness experience. The ongoing pandemic only serves to exacerbate these already significant risks. TCMS and its members believe that housing is health, and that access to safe and stable housing is crucial in being able to address any other ongoing needs, including medical treatment. A one-time investment of \$17.5 million to support the Emergency Services Program (ESP) through H.F. 42 is key in helping provide people with dignified shelter, access to supportive-services, and life-saving services during COVID19.

Any number of people experiencing homelessness is too high, but that nearly 8,000 Minnesotans experience homelessness on any given night is unconscionable. This number also disproportionately represents people of color, as more than 60% of those experience homelessness are Black, Indigenous, and people of color<sup>1</sup>. Housing, health and safety, and racial justice are issues that are intertwined and cannot be separated from each other. TCMS thanks you for considering this important bill and urges you to support it in your committee.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Traxler", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Sarah Traxler, MD  
President of the Twin Cities Medical Society

---

<sup>1</sup> Catholic Charities Twin Cities. (2021). *Unsheltered in Minnesota*. [Fact sheet].