



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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February 28, 2023

Representative Athena Hollins
471 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator John Marty
3235 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: HF 1686 and SF 2033 – Heading Home Ramsey request

Representative Hollins and Senator Marty,

On behalf of the Washington County Board of Commissioners, I write in support of the passage of House File 1686 and Senate File 2033. These bills will provide needed state support of efforts to provide shelter space and services for families and individuals who are experiencing homelessness.

As neighbors on the east side of the metropolitan region, Ramsey and Washington Counties partner on a variety of important services. Recent Point-In-Time counts in both counties have found many individuals who need a safe place to stay and the on-going support services and interventions to move them from homelessness to housing.

Washington County continues to operate a temporary hotel shelter program and has allocated a significant amount of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to acquire a permanent facility within the county for homelessness single adults. Family sheltering in the county is provided by several faith communities.

The need in our county and in the east metro exceeds our current capacity and we rely on Ramsey County and its shelter capacity to help fill the gap. As we did in the previous session, we fully support the Ramsey County ask for \$75 million to fund critical interventions.

If you have any questions, please let me or county staff know. Thank you for sponsoring these important bills and we encourage the legislature to fund the Heading Home Ramsey request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Kriesel".

Gary Kriesel
Commissioner District 3
County Board Chair
Washington County Board of Commissioners

Cc: Trista MatasCastillo, Chair, Ramsey County Board of Commissioners

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