



LIFE HOUSE

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Greetings Chair Noor and Members of the Committee,

Life House serves over 800 unduplicated youth and young families' ages 14 to 24 annually who are unstably housed and navigating challenging life circumstances. The Homeless Youth Act is a vital component funding our comprehensive supportive services. We are acutely aware of the benefits to our youth when we provide a wraparound approach, which includes a drop-in youth center, community housing and residential sites, mental health and wellness team, as well as education and employment support. This way of supporting our vulnerable young people in our communities has been one of the most effective means to lifting them up.

Please support HF 444 the \$50 million investment in the Homeless Youth Act. Invest in our future generations and leaders in our community. From our organizational annual statistics, this would be an investment in our Black, Indigenous, and Youth of Color (60%) as well as LGBTQ+ (20%) young people.

In Minnesota, an estimated 5,800 youth ages 10 to 17 and 7,500 young adults between the ages of 18 to 24 will experience homelessness over the course of one year. This means 13,300 Minnesota youth are without homes. The reality is we know this number is likely higher given unstably housed young people tend to become invisible in the fabric our society.

Let's invest in our young people and witness the beauty of how those funds will pay off in years to come. The Homeless Youth Act is a critical key part of creating a pathway to eliminate youth homelessness in our state.

With the Homeless Youth Act funds, we have leveraged additional philanthropic, federal, and county investments to support serving youth in our region and throughout Minnesota. This investment also puts forth innovative programming opportunities related to housing, employment and overall enhances our community partnerships.

Again, please support the Homeless Youth Act, HF 444, and invest in our future generations.

With gratitude,

Jordon Eunison-Chisti, PhD

Executive Director

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