



Greater Twin Cities
United Way
gtcuw.org

February 3, 2023

Dear Members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

Greater Twin Cities United Way writes in support of HF444 that will provide holistic services to prevent homelessness and build pathways to stable housing for populations experiencing high risk for housing instability, such as Minnesota youth.

At Greater Twin Cities United Way, our mission is to unite changemakers, advocate for social good and develop solutions to address the challenges no one can solve alone. Together with our partners, we touched over 500,000 lives across the nine-county metro area last year. We fund over 100 nonprofits and coalitions through multi-year general operations grants, innovation initiatives and supportive funds directed toward our partners' most pressing needs in the areas of Household Stability, Educational Success and Economic Opportunity. Above all, we know a stable home provides the critical foundation that all Minnesotans need to thrive, supporting better health, education, and employment outcomes.

Yet nearly 20,000 individuals and families experience homelessness on any given night - in every region across the state. Many of these Minnesotans experiencing homelessness are youth, but this population is often under-represented in the data, as they are often not found within the shelter system. Young people experiencing homelessness are also disproportionately Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) at 73% and youth who identify as LGBTQIA+ at 23%.

The increased investment in the Homeless Youth Act that modified by HF444 will provide additional supports for youth experiencing homelessness, particularly through prevention of recurring homelessness by funding supportive housing programs.

We know investments that improve housing stability result in lasting impacts and improved long-term outcomes. Even more importantly, we know these investments lead to multi-generational impacts, benefitting not just individuals, but whole families. Greater Twin Cities United Way supports the expansion and increased funding of the Homeless Youth Act, as stable housing provides a vital foundation that enables thriving children, families and communities.

Sincerely,

Susan Carter
Director, Advocacy & External Engagement
Greater Twin Cities United Way

Tina Rucci
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