



SCOTT COUNTY HEALTH and HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION

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PAM SELVIG
Director

RE: Support for Metro Housing Demo

May 6, 2021

Senator Michelle Benson
Senator Jim Abeler
Senator Paul Utke
Senator Mark Koran
Senator John Hoffman

Representative Tina Liebling
Representative Jennifer Schultz
Representative Dave Pinto
Representative Aisha Gomez
Representative Joe Schomacker

Dear Conferees,

Thank you for your continued dedication to serving the people of Minnesota. I recognize your time is limited, but hope I can bring your attention to support long-term housing for homeless individuals and families who are also living with challenges such as mental health or substance abuse.

I am writing to encourage support of the "Metro Housing Demo" project. We thank the House for including this important provision and encourage the Senate's acceptance. [House Article 14, sec. 31]

If passed, this approach will expand stable housing and supportive services to vulnerable residents in a cost-effective way that will also decrease deep-end service needs. Since 1995, the "Metro Housing Demo" project has a proven track record of improvement outcomes like:

- An average of 6.6 years of household stability
- A 56% average change in income between first and last months of participation
- A significant reduction in more expensive costs in jail, supervised living, and short-term shelter options

We hope to expand that success by:

- Enabling the programs to serve an additional 274 households
- Making the program available in Scott, Carver, and Washington counties
- Focusing on addressing bottlenecks within the homeless systems
- Updating statutory language to decrease administrative barriers, AND
- Provide dignified stable housing options to some of our most vulnerable homelessness households

The current system does not support enough resources that combine rental assistance and supportive services for people with challenges like mental illness and chemical dependency. An expansion of this project will help decrease dependence on more costly options, reduce the bottlenecks within our systems, and provide stability to targeted households in need.

Thank you for your support and consideration of this important legislation. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

Danielle Fox

Scott County Adult Services Manager

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