

Dear Chair, Rep Cheryl Youakim, Vice Chair, Rep Mary Frances Clardy, and Members of the Mn House School Finance Committee:

I am actively promoting HF2492 for the following reasons: As a cardiologist, I know that you and I are healthy not so much because of the health services that I provide, but because we have an education, and with that education we can generate adequate income.

When we keep a young person from becoming homeless, Mn Dept of Health research shows their life expectancy deficit of 20 to 30 years is erased. Youthbuild puts them on a path to health and well-being.

In addition to providing low cost home ownership opportunities for low income families, this bill allows youth to enter a training and employment stream that provides them with an opportunity to earn a respectable income, also an essential building block for health. Students who build homes for others will be acquiring the skills that give them *respect, dignity, meaning and purpose*—critical building blocks for well-being that homeless youth lack.

A young person will be able to drive by a home and say, “I built that! I made it possible for that family to own a home! I contributed to my community! The power of these words to create well-being cannot be overstated.

Please support - and consider becoming a co-author for HF2492. You will not only increase the stock of low cost, high quality housing, you will change, for the better and forever, the lives of young men and women.

Thank you.

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