

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR HOMELESS STUDY

February 28, 2025

To: Chair Howard and members of the House Housing Finance & Policy Committee

Chair Howard and Committee Members:

I am reaching out on behalf of YSN to voice our strong support for SF 2214/HF 2276, which allocates funding for the Minnesota Homeless Study. Since 1991, this study has been an essential tool in understanding and addressing homelessness across the state. It stands out nationally for its collaboration with tribal communities and the depth of publicly available data collected over more than 30 years. The study helps identify needs, uncover systemic barriers, and shape more effective programs and policies. Investing in this research is a smart, high-impact decision—it informs and strengthens multiple policies affecting Minnesotans experiencing homelessness, ensuring that resources are used effectively for long-term change.

For organizations like those in YSN's network, this study is more than just data—it is an essential tool that drives decision-making at every level. Our partners rely on this information to strengthen grant applications and fundraising efforts, ensuring they can sustain and expand services for youth experiencing homelessness. It also plays a key role in shaping best practices, helping organizations refine their programs based on real, long-term trends rather than assumptions.

Beyond the value of the data itself, Wilder Research has been an outstanding community partner in this work. Their commitment to collaboration and transparency ensures that the study reflects the realities of those experiencing homelessness and provides actionable insights. Their approach fosters trust and engagement across service providers, policymakers, and communities.

We strongly urge continued investment in this critical study to ensure Minnesota has the data-driven insights needed to make meaningful progress in addressing homelessness. YSN calls on the committee to pass SF 2214/HF 2276 to ensure that the state continues to benefit from the insights provided by the Minnesota Homeless Study data.

Sincerely,

Corey Magstadt, Director, Youth Services Network representing our member organizations.

