



***Sowers of Justice***

Catholic Legislative Network

**Action  
Alert**

**Please call or email  
Representative Thissen.  
Keeping Supportive Housing  
Services is a must!**

**April 6, 2009**

**To end homelessness, “home” needs to be more than just a place to live:  
Just “build it and they will come” is not enough!**

### **Background**

The state of Minnesota has made a commitment to ending homelessness through its ambitious “Heading Home Minnesota” plan and other programs that work to end long-term homelessness. Through state-supported bonding dollars, Minnesota has built over 2,500 permanent supportive housing opportunities that are affordable for people trying to escape poverty.

Since 2005, when Catholic Charities began its Housing First Program, over 500 individuals and families now have stable housing.

But ending homelessness did not happen just because there was a place for people to live. It happened because they also received the support services that made it possible for that housing to continue long term.

If we are truly committed to ending homelessness, we need to provide essential support services to people who are working their way out of poverty and into stable housing situations.

Due to Minnesota’s current budget crisis, funds that provide supportive services to people working to escape homelessness are in danger of being cut. Without these services, people working to escape long-term homelessness are less likely to succeed and stay off the streets.

### **Message**

Fortunately, legislation like House File 1491 and Senate File 2026 would restore \$3 million to the supportive housing services budget.

We need to make sure these supportive housing services are in the budget. If not, those who are currently housed risk losing the services that help them maintain stable housing.

Organizations like Catholic Charities will no longer be able to commit to building new housing to end long-term homelessness if the operating dollars necessary to fund services won't be there to keep people stable.

### **Recommended Action**

Please call or email Representative Paul Thissen – Share a message that funding for supportive services for housing is essential!

- Phone: 651-296-5375
- Email: [rep.paul.thissen@house.mn](mailto:rep.paul.thissen@house.mn)

For more information:

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