



*Sowers of Justice*

Catholic Legislative Network

**Action  
Alert**

# Support Bonding Money for Housing to Aid the Homeless

April 21, 2006

## **Background:**

Many people are homeless due to disabilities, mental illness, or chronic health conditions. They often cycle in and out of emergency shelters, mental health institutions, and other public crisis centers. Such centers are expensive to run, and are unable to address the root causes that keep homeless people on the street.

Supportive and transitional housing help homeless people address the life situations that keep them homeless, allowing them to work toward long-term self-sufficiency. These facilities provide affordable housing with on-site social services, such as counseling, case management, chemical dependency treatment, and employment resources. They are proven, cost-effective strategies for creating positive change in the lives of homeless people. Supportive housing is permanent, and targets chronically homeless persons whose barriers to mainstream housing are most severe. Transitional housing targets those who are homeless due to short-term crises, such as domestic violence or economic disruption. Transitional housing is time-limited, and seeks to reintegrate homeless people into mainstream housing that they can afford and maintain.

The Minnesota legislature has the opportunity to fund the construction of new supportive and transitional housing as part of the 2006 bonding bill. A conference committee has been named to work out the differences between the already-passed Senate and House versions of the bonding bill.

We are calling upon the conference committee to do all that it can to assist some of Minnesota's lowest-income citizens. At this point in the process, the best they can do is include \$20 million for supportive housing, and \$4 million for transitional housing, in the 2006 bonding bill.

## **Recommended Action:**

You are receiving this action alert because one of your legislators is a member of the conference committee that will work out a compromise between the House and Senate bonding bills.

Please contact your legislator (see list below), and urge her or him to **include \$20 million dollars for supportive housing and \$4 million for transitional housing** in the 2006 bonding bill.

***FFI: Contact Matt Rezac at 651-291-4536***

## 2006 Capital Investment Conference Committee

Member	District	Phone	E-mail
Rep. Laura Brod (R)	25A	651-296-4229	rep.laura.brod@house.mn
Rep. Dan Dorman (R)	27A	651-296-8216	rep.dan.dorman@house.mn
Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL)	66B	651-296-3824	rep.alice.hausman@house.mn
Rep. Denny McNamara (R)	57B	651-296-3135	rep.denny.mcnamara@house.mn
Rep. Bud Nornes	10A	651-296-4946	rep.bud.nornes@house.mn
Sen. Paul Koering (R)	12	651-296-4875	sen.paul.koering@senate.mn
Sen. Keith Langseth (DFL)	09	651-296-3205	sen.keith.langseth@senate.mn
Sen. James Metzen (DFL)	39	651-296-4370	sen.jim.metzen@senate.mn
Sen. Sandra Pappas (DFL)	65	651-296-1802	No email provided.
Sen. Wes Skoglund (DFL)	62	651-296-4274	sen.wes.skoglund@senate.mn