

Submitter: Mitch Ripke

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3644

It's crucial that any program, especially one that involves such a significant amount of money—over \$217 million—ensures transparency and accountability. Without clear oversight, there is a risk that funds could be mismanaged, which does a disservice to those in need of shelter and undermines public trust.

Establishing a statewide homeless shelter program could be beneficial, but it must be implemented with stringent oversight mechanisms to ensure that the funding is used effectively and that the shelter providers and NGOs are held accountable for their expenditures. We cannot afford to allocate public funds without a clear understanding of how they will be utilized and what outcomes are expected.

I urge lawmakers to reconsider this proposal and work towards a more transparent framework that prioritizes fiscal responsibility and guarantees that resources are directed toward truly helping the homeless population in our state. Accountability should be a non-negotiable part of any plan that involves such a large investment of taxpayer dollars.