

I'm writing to you in regards to H.91, and have cc'd the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare in this correspondence. I want to express that, as a shelter provider that receives HOP funding, I have deep concerns about the inclusion of moving the high-performing HOP funding to local CAPs along with the GA funding. I believe that such a move, without proper cost-benefit analysis as well as service-enhancement analysis, could result in a rushed systemic change that would both cost our system of care more money and harm the people we serve—potentially increasing our homeless population's dependence on the motel program and/or creating more unsheltered homelessness.

I know this is not the goal of H.91, and that the goal is to create more integration and a stronger system. But without a proper study—with input from all stakeholders who do the work, administer funds, and are impacted by services—we are shooting in the dark.

As the final language on this bill is being worked out, I propose that instead, a study committee with relevant stakeholders be set up to look at the question of whether it would make sense to include HOP in this transition down the road, after the GA transition and once our federal uncertainties are more clear, in a serious and transparent way.

I understand the feeling of urgency when so many things are uncertain, but as someone who works in a field that constantly pushes up against unwarranted urgency carried out under the banner of doing good, I suggest we take the time to ensure the outcomes truly align with our values—because reactive decisions often create more problems than they solve. Please consider the proposal of a study committee before including HOP in this transition.

Thank you, and please reach out if you'd like to discuss this further.

Kim

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