

July 2, 2025

Representative Pete Stauber,

We, the undersigned, operate programs that provide housing and other essential, often life-saving services to individuals in your district and throughout Minnesota. We engage in this mission-based work because we deeply care about our neighbors, and we believe that our communities are stronger when everyone can thrive.

We are alarmed by the changes occurring in Washington, DC, which could have devastating consequences for our work and the people in our region. In recent weeks, we have faced daily uncertainty about funding that has already been allocated to many of our organizations. We have watched as the government workforce is slashed and entire programs that we depend on to deliver services are eliminated. These decisions are having real-life impacts on this district.

You and other elected leaders face difficult choices each year to balance the needs of all Americans with prudent fiscal policy. However, the proposed funding cuts are entirely unbalanced. This level of spending reduction is unprecedented and will fundamentally alter the scope and function of government programs that serve people in our district, with catastrophic consequences.

These proposed cuts will place a significant burden on local governments, foundations, and nonprofit organizations that are already carrying out vital work in our community. These entities simply cannot fill the gaps that will be left by the proposed cuts. On a human and social level, there will be impacts that reverberate throughout every city, town, reservation, and rural community, as well as within every family. Until the budget is finalized, we won't know the exact impact. But based on the scale of cuts and stated goals of the budget resolution, the consequences for our region could be severe, including:

- more people facing economic hardship and homelessness;
- people living with disabilities facing increased barriers to education, lifesaving medicines, and supports needed to maintain independent living;
- more families avoiding needed care and going into debt due to lack of access to health insurance coverage;
- more seniors facing isolation and making impossible budget choices of paying for food, medicine, or housing;
- reversing the progress we have made on preventing overdose deaths;
- programs for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault are facing potential cuts in funding that would cause them to scale back staffing, especially for legal resource centers;
- increased demand for food shelves, clothing closets, and other emergency support programs, even as those same programs face massive reductions in federal support and struggle to meet current needs.

This approach will disrupt not only our work but almost every aspect of our shared lives together, increasing risks not only to individuals but also to public safety and public health. These choices ultimately put more pressure on emergency services, hospitals, and law enforcement.

Our organizations are collectively terrified about what federal budget cuts will mean to the people of the 8th district, their families, and the programs they rely on for survival. Please represent us, all of us, and oppose cuts to Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, food and housing assistance, and other programs that your constituents depend on to live; and work with and listen to community partners as you craft the best policies and funding priorities for our region and nation.

Thank you for your attention to this letter and for your service to our great nation. We respectfully request that you help elevate these concerns on a national level by advocating against the proposed cuts, and we would welcome the opportunity to meet with you urgently to further discuss the impact these changes are already having on your district. Please let us know your availability so we can coordinate a time to meet.

Sincerely,

John Cole
Executive Director, Chum



Amber Sadowski
Executive Director, Life House



Seth Currier
Executive Director, Damiano Center



Deyona Kirk
Executive Director, Divine Konnections



Amanda Crosby
Executive Director, The Arc Northland



Katie Hagglund
Executive Director, Union Gospel Mission



ChaQuana McEntyre
Executive Director, Families Rise Together



Jenny Swanson
Executive Director, Recovery Alliance Duluth



Brittany Robb
Executive Director,
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Nancy Cashman
Executive Director,
Center City Housing Corporation



Margaret Rousu
Executive Director,
White Earth Land Recovery Project



Jeff Corey
Executive Director,
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Jill Hanners
Executive Director, Mentor North



Morgan Beryl
Executive Director, YWCA Duluth



Alexia Reed Holstum
Executive Director,
Bob Tavani House for Medical Respite



Shaye Moris
President/CEO,
Second Harvest Northland



Dawn Lamping
Executive Director,
Floodwood Services and Training Center



Helen Tome
Executive Director,
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Colleen Chapin
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Jon Nelson
Executive Director, Residential Services, Inc



Don Ness
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Tina Silverness
Executive Director,
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Rose Welch
Co-Founder and National Director
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