



Sowers of Justice

Catholic Legislative Network

**Action
Alert**

**Ask Conference Committee
on Bonding Bill to Fully
Fund Affordable Housing**

March 3, 2004

Background:

In the 2004 legislative session, Governor Pawlenty issued a sweeping proposal to eliminate long term homelessness in the state of Minnesota. As part of that proposal, he called for \$20 million in bonding money to pay for the construction of new units of supportive housing. This housing would increase the number of housing units available to poor and vulnerable people.

Unfortunately, the House and Senate failed to agree on a bonding bill last year. However, at the beginning of the 2005 legislative session, both bodies passed bonding bills that included money for supportive housing. The Senate included the full \$20 million proposed by the Governor. The House passed a bill that only provides \$10 million.

The House and Senate bonding bills will now be reconciled by a conference committee. That committee is made up of members of both the House and the Senate from both sides of the aisle. Legislators appointed to the conference committee will compare the two bills and begin to negotiate a final agreement. They held their first meeting this week, and will renew negotiations next week.

Their decision will determine how much we spend to meet the needs of some of the poorest and most vulnerable members of our community. In order to ensure that the final bill includes the full \$20 million that both the Governor and the Senate requested, we need your help.

Please contact the legislator or legislators below who represent you and ask them to support full funding of \$20 million for supportive housing in the overall bonding bill. These funds are a critical component of our effort to create supportive housing for people experiencing long-term homelessness and a critical facet of the Governor's Business Plan to End Long-term Homelessness.

Recommended Action:

Contact one or more of the Conference Committee Members listed below.
Ask them to include the full \$20 million for supportive housing in this year's bonding bill.

Conferees (In Legislative Districts within the Archdiocese)

66B Rep. Hausman 651-296-3824 rep.alice.hausman@house.mn St. Paul
57B Rep. McNamara 651-296-3135 rep.denny.mcnamara@house.mn Hastings
25A Rep. Brod 651-296-4229 rep.laura.brod@house.mn New Prague
65 Sen. Pappas 651-296-1802 St. Paul
39 Sen. Metzen 651-296-4370 sen.jim.metzen@senate.mn S. St. Paul

FFI: Contact Matt Gladue at 651-291-4484