

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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News Statement

Minnesota Leaders Join First Lady to Announce Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness

St. Paul—Today, St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman and Cathy ten Broeke, State Director to Prevent and End Homelessness, joined First Lady Michelle Obama and local leaders from across the country to announce the [Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness](#).

As part of the Joining Forces initiative, First Lady Michelle Obama announced the commitment of 77 mayors, four governors, including Governor Mark Dayton, and four county officials to meet the goal of ending veteran homelessness in their communities by the end of 2015.

“Stable housing is the foundation for better health, better education, and better communities. We applaud Minnesota’s national leadership on ending veterans homelessness,” Liz Kuoppala, Executive Director of the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless stated. **“The campaign for veterans shows communities know what it takes to prevent and end homelessness. We are confident our state can make the same progress with homeless families and children.”**

Minnesota is on track to be the first state to end veteran homelessness—there are about 350 homeless veterans; 50 are unsheltered. Nationwide, veteran homelessness has declined by 24% since 2010. Last month, state lawmakers passed a record \$100 million in bonds to build and preserve housing for low-income Minnesotans.

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The Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless is a statewide organization comprised of 150 direct service providers. Our mission is to generate public policies, community support, and local resources to end homelessness in Minnesota.

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