

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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News Statement

Announcement to end veteran homelessness in Minnesota this year

St. Paul—On January 31, city and state officials announced they will aim to end veteran homelessness in Minnesota this year. With about 350 homeless veterans counted in the entire state last year, it is an attainable goal.

Liz Kuoppala, Executive Director of the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless, stated:

“We applaud the commitment to ending veteran homelessness in our state. There is an increasing recognition across Minnesota that stable housing is the foundation for reaching broader goals—in education, health, and economic development. We know family and youth homelessness can be sharply reduced as well.”

The number of homeless veterans in St. Paul and Minneapolis has been reduced by half since 2009. Phoenix and Salt Lake City were the first *cities* to end veteran homelessness; Minnesota is poised to be the first *state* to end veteran homelessness.

The Homes for All Alliance will advance legislation to invest \$100 million in bonds for housing this session: Governor Dayton included \$50 million for housing in his bonding proposal. Investments would be used to build, rehab, and preserve affordable housing units across the state.

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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.