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Jim Mullen
President & CEO
United Way of Summit and Medina
HB 110 – Proponent
May 6, 2021

Chair Huffman, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Antonio, and Members of the Senate Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 110 (HB 110), the biennial operating budget. My name is Jim Mullen, and I am the President and CEO of United Way of Summit & Medina.

United Way of Summit & Medina is committed to creating a community where all individuals and families are welcomed, treated fairly, and given the appropriate resources they need to help them and their families, especially in times of hardship. Hunger and homelessness can happen at any time, to virtually anyone. We are investing more toward the basic needs of our community than ever before, to assist with shelter, nutrition, and access to healthcare. At United Way of Summit & Medina, we give a voice to those who rely on short-term government assistance, including those who face homelessness.

That is why we strongly support the House-added provision in HB 110 that allocates \$100,000 in FY 2022 to the Medina County Board of Commissioners to support the financing of a homeless shelter in Medina.

Medina County is experiencing a housing crisis. However, there is no homeless shelter in the county. This budget allocation is incredibly important as initial funding towards the construction of critically necessary homeless shelter.

United Way of Summit & Medina's Housing Services coordinates access to homeless shelters, permanent supportive housing and rent assistance for individuals and families living in Summit County who are homeless or facing eviction. We look forward to sharing our skill and experience in collaboration to construct a similar resource system for homelessness in Medina County. United Way of Summit & Medina is committed to help find housing for all individuals and families in need.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. We urge your support of keeping this budget allocation in HB 110.

Sincerely,

Jim Mullen
President & CEO

BOLD GOALS. BIG RESULTS.