Dear [Representative / Senator] [ Last Name]

My name is [INSERT Council Member Name] and I am a Member of the Iowa Council on Homelessness. We are a group of community, nonprofit, public, and private-sector leaders appointed by the Governor who work together to identify issues, raise awareness and secure resources to help ensure all Iowans have access to safe and affordable housing.

As the 89th General Assembly comes to a close, I wanted to reach out and thank you for your work this session to advocate on behalf of Iowa’s homeless and housing insecure populations.

Our state is not immune to homelessness — and it’s not just a problem in Des Moines or our urban areas. In all of Iowa’s 99 counties, there are individuals who are homeless or dangerously close to becoming so. According to the Institute for Community Alliances, more than 11,000 Iowans statewide were served by agencies providing resources for the homeless in 2019. That includes nearly 2,000 people in Council Bluffs, 592 in the Siouxland area, and thousands more in every corner of Iowa. Sadly, these numbers were likely more severe in 2020 due to the economic and social fallout associated with COVID-19 shutdowns and disruptions.

Going forward, I wanted you to have my contact information and the information for our Council. As you hear from constituents in the interim, please consider visiting your local homeless shelter, food pantry, domestic violence shelter, or other housing security organization. The leaders at these organizations are truly service-minded, noble Iowans who wake up every day looking to help those around them. In your area, you could consider visiting [INSERT SHELTER NAME], which is in your district and offers important services to your constituents.

If you have questions about our Council or other ways you can help fight homelessness with legislative action, please never hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

[INSERT Council Member Name]

[Insert Council Member Contact Information]