



March 22, 2023

Dear Chair Becker-Finn and Members of the Judiciary Finance and Civil Law committee:

I am writing to express Jewish Community Action's strong support for HF181, which will make reporting incidents of hate and bias easier, provide financial support to victims, and provide funding to organizations working in communities that are often targeted by hate.

JCA organizes the Minnesota Jewish community alongside our multifaith, multiracial partners for justice for all Minnesotans. So when the Dar al Farooq mosque in Bloomington was attacked, followed by a succession of bias-motivated incidents targeting synagogues, other masjids, cultural centers and individual members of Minnesota's AAPI and LGBTQI communities, we began conversations about how we could not only come together to support one another, but take meaningful action to stop hate. In 2020, we formed the Communities Combating Hate Coalition, which now includes nearly 20 organizational partners. Our coalition recognizes that we need to update the laws that help us combat hate in Minnesota.

We need to close the loopholes in the current hate crimes statute that makes it impossible to accurately reflect the state of hate in Minnesota, and we need to empower community organizations and law enforcement to partner to ensure accuracy. If we can't name it, we can't fight it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beth Gendler", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Beth Gendler

Executive Director

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