



March 3, 2021

The Honorable Representative Michael Nelson
State Government Finance and Elections Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
585 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for HF 784

Dear Chair Nelson:

I am writing to express my support for HF 784, which aims to address systemic racism and racial injustice by intentionally appropriating funding to several agencies that will positively impact the African American community.

This bill appropriates funding to: culturally competent health services; school breakfast and lunch debt forgiveness; STEM training and technological access to young students; urban agriculture initiatives; recidivism reduction services; the Minnesota Department of Human Rights; establishing an African American Advisory Committee; funding grants to African American organizations and businesses; providing grants to the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency; entrepreneurial and business training assistance and more. Alongside these investments, HF 784 contains policy provisions aimed at enhancing our public safety officer's cultural competency skills and revamping our state contract procurement policies. These are sensible policies that can have a real impact.

The past year has been hard on our community. Collectively, we've been battling the COVID-19 pandemic and the trauma from the murder of George Floyd. Ending systemic racism begins first by acknowledging and addressing the numerous structures in government that inhibit the wellbeing of our most vulnerable. Investments like the ones outlined in HF 784 are more critical than ever for our residents and our community and will help create equity in the areas we need it the most.

Respectfully,

Melvin Carter
Mayor