

**100%**

100% Campaign  
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[www.100percentmn.org](http://www.100percentmn.org)

March 16, 2023

Chair Moller and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to express our support for Rep. Gene Pelowski's House File 1278 and the Walz-Flanagan Public Safety budget appropriation to Minnesota's Disaster Assistance Contingency Account (DACA).

**Minnesotans know how to come together in a crisis.** In floods or fires, windstorms or blizzards, we're often at our best when we need each other most.

But too often our crises are too big for one neighborhood, one county, or even one region of the state to solve on their own. With increasing frequency over the last two decades, Minnesotans have faced natural disasters that require state or federal disaster assistance.

Both House File 1278 and the Walz-Flanagan Public Safety budget invests \$40 million in one-time money from the general fund for DACA. This is an important and essential investment.

**Communities across our state accessed DACA fifty-three times for state-declared disasters between 2014 and 2021.** From 2018-2021, DACA funds were used, on average, for ten state-declared and one federal-declared disaster per year, expending, on average, \$22 million per year.

Unfortunately, this is a growing trend. **Minnesota has experienced more and larger storms since 1998.** This increase has been reflected in the growth of homeowner's insurance premiums. In Minnesota, our average rates have increased 366% between 1998 and 2015. This increase moved Minnesota from having the 35<sup>th</sup> highest premium rates in the U.S. to the 15<sup>th</sup> highest rates during this period.

This is because **Minnesota is above average when it comes to extreme weather.** When comparing states' all-time weather extremes for maximum temperature, minimum temperature, greatest 24-hour precipitation event, maximum 24-hour snowfall, and annual tornadoes per 10,000 square miles, Minnesota ranks second in the U.S. for extreme weather.

Given this trend, and the foreseeable and urgent needs that Minnesotans will face, it's prudent to increase funding for Minnesota's Disaster Assistance Contingency Account.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

*Aurora Vautrin*

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Legislative Director

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