



Legal Services Advocacy Project
Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid
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St. Paul, MN 55114
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May 7, 2020

The Honorable Tim Mahoney
Chair
Jobs & Economic Development Finance Division
Minnesota House of Representative
365 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Bob Gunther
Republican Lead
Jobs & Economic Development Finance Division
Minnesota House of Representative
277 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Mohamud Noor
Vice Chair
Jobs & Economic Development Finance Division
Minnesota House of Representative
379 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: HF 4611 – Emergency Community Relief Grants

Dear Chair Mahoney, Vice Chair Noor, Republican Lead Gunther and Members of the Committee:

The Legal Services Advocacy Project (LSAP), writes in support of HF 4611. LSAP is the statewide division of Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid that provides legislative advocacy on behalf of our clients and all low-income Minnesotans, including elder Minnesotans and Minnesotans with disabilities.

A portion of our clients, for a variety of reasons, are not eligible for federal stimulus payments unemployment insurance, and other relief programs. For example, elderly and persons with disabilities not receiving Social Security are left out. They are as much in need as those who are eligible.

The grants available under this bill are specifically targeted to pay for food, emergency household items, rent support, utility bills, and other basic needs that are more critical now than ever. Although the state will face future budgetary challenges, it has faced and overcome similar challenges before – and it will again. But, from a human perspective, we have never in virtually all of our lifetimes faced anything like COVID-19. Making strategic investments to support human life is paramount and urgent. Therefore, as legislators balance competing priorities, LSAP urges that it make HF 4611 one of them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Elwood".

Ron Elwood
Supervising Attorney