



March 27, 2023

Chair Tina Liebling
Minnesota House Health Finance and Policy
477 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Melissa Wiklund
Minnesota Senate Health and Human Services Committee
2107 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Emmett Louis Till Victims Recovery Program (HF51/SF18)

Chair Liebling and Chair Wiklund,

The Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage writes in support of efforts to address the historical and intergenerational traumas that burden Black communities. **We request the inclusion of the Emmett Louis Till Victims Recovery Program (HF51/SF18) in the Health and Human Services Omnibus.** The Emmett Louis Till Victim Victims Recovery Program will support the health and wellness of victims of trauma, their families, and their heirs, especially as this trauma results from assault, false accusations, intimidation, wrongful convictions, discrimination based on race, ethnicity, or nationality, and other types of oppression.

Our Council believes a trauma-informed approach to health and social services deserves strong support for at least three reasons:

- 1) Focus on Historical Trauma** - Certain health and safety challenges in our communities are related to unresolved long-term traumas. We need community services that respond to the collective, indirect, and multigenerational impacts of violent events on victims and their families.

- 2) Focus on Holistic Wellness** - Historical traumas create complex mental and physical health problems in marginalized communities. We need culturally-informed healing programs that provide holistic mental and physical wellness services.

3) Focus on Intersectional Public Issues - Holistic, trauma-informed health services help communities address issues at the intersection of economy, public safety, and social support. We need resources that respond to the collective traumas at the root of public safety and socioeconomic hardships in our communities.

We thank you for your leadership and partnership on issues of health equity. Thanks also to Rep. Richardson and Sen. Champion for sponsoring the bill. Please support the Emmett Louis Till Victims Recovery Program.

Sincerely,

Linda Sloan | Executive Director
Theodore Rose | Legislative and Policy Director
Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage

The Minnesota Legislature empowered the Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage to ensure that people of African heritage fully and effectively participate in and equitably benefit from the political, social, and economic resources, policies, and procedures of the State of Minnesota. Generally, the Council is charged with the responsibility of:

- *Advising the Governor and the Legislature on issues confronting People of African Heritage;*
- *Advising the Governor and the Legislature on statutes, rules, and revisions to programs to ensure that Black people have access to benefits and services provided to people in Minnesota;*
- *Serving as a liaison to the federal government, local government units and private organizations on matters relating to People of African Heritage in Minnesota;*
- *Implementing programs designed to solve problems of People of African Heritage when authorized by statute, rule or order; and*
- *Publicizing the accomplishments of People of African Heritage and their contributions to the state.*