



April 3rd, 2024

Dear Chair Klevorn and State and Local Government Committee members,

On behalf of the community we represent and advocate in partnership with; Africa, Career, Resource and Education Inc (**ACER**) is submitting a statement in full support and a call to action to our elected officials to support and pass HF4593/SF4894, **With Us, For Us Redistricting Amendment**. HF4593 the With Us, For Us Redistricting Amendment bill came from our collective effort and best positions us in the model, process and rules.

In 2021, ACER in partnership with community members in Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center participated in the Unity Mapping Process. During these community engagement processes, ACER engaged members of these two diverse communities to identify issues, concerns and topics of importance to them. As a result the community members were able to develop maps that would accurately reflect their values, interests and collective representation.

It's important to highlight that in order to have fair, accurate and justifiable representation, redistricting should focus on supporting communities, building camaraderie, and creating opportunities for connection. In many cases, redistricting has caused unnecessary harm to constituents by dividing communities of interest.

For many residents in Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center, there is a sense of underrepresentation in the State government. Participants stressed that keeping communities together is the most important thing when considering redistricting. This will allow for candidates and elected officials to better understand the needs of community members.

We ask all the legislators to stand by the community in supporting HF4593/SF4894, With Us For Us Redistricting Amendment.