



African American Leadership Forum

SUPPORT FOR HF 93 – ABOLISHING SLAVERY IN MINNESOTA CONSTITUTION

January 23, 2023

Chair Kelly Moller
Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee
200 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Moller and Committee Members:

The African American Leadership Forum (AALF) is a movement of more than 5,000 African American leaders, institutions, allies, and systems that come together to collaborate and champion solutions that improve the lives and experience of African Americans in Minnesota. For 15 years, AALF Twin Cities has harnessed the collective power of Black communities to solve complex social problems. Our goal is to build a just and healthy society that works equally well for everyone.

The African American Leadership Forum expresses its strong support for HF 93, which will allow Minnesota voters to fully abolish slavery from the Minnesota Constitution via ballot measure and place further pressure on federal leaders to amend the 13th Amendment to do the same. Whether it was Michelle Alexander through her groundbreaking book *The New Jim Crow*, or Ava DuVernay through her critically-acclaimed documentary *13th*, the case has been made that our constitutional documents—which set the foundation for our democracy—have not fully released this nation or our state from the bondage of slavery. As Black communities suffer under the crushing weight of mass incarceration and its effects on the vitality of Black life, we must take bold action to divorce our criminal legal system from the enduring legacy of slavery and work to end the “racial caste system” left in its wake. By passing HF 93, Minnesotans can say emphatically that slavery no longer has a place in our state, and that we are committed to a free and prosperous future for all.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill and we ask for your support of HF 93.

Sincerely,

Amber Jones
Managing Director, Public Policy
African American Leadership Forum