

March 14, 2022

Representative Tina Liebling
Chair, Health Finance and Policy Committee

Rep. Liebling and Members of Health Finance and Policy Committee:

I am writing in strong support of HF 4099. My name is Ozaawaanakwadok, aka Susan L. Ninham, I am an elder from the Red Lake Nation who authored the proposal and the Red Lake Comprehensive Health Services are recipients of the Community Solutions Grant Program. Our program serves families 0-4 with Professional Development for the Early Childhood Indicators of Progress in a culturally responsive environment.

We support HF 4099 because we believe it is a strategy that addresses inequality as well as amplifies the innovative solutions that leverage community assets, are culturally relevant, and center the experiences and dignity of those most impacted by inequity. Community Solutions Grant Program represents more than money, it is also recognition that communities of color, American Indian communities, and geographically dispersed communities have invaluable knowledge, and must be active and valued participants within the creation of solutions for their communities.

I strongly encourage you to support HF 4099. The collective health and prosperity of our state is tied to ensuring every child has what they need to thrive.

Miigwech,

Ozaawaanakwadok, AKA-Susan L. Ninham, Anishinaabe Gichi'aya'aa

Susan L. Ninham