

March 25, 2021

Re: HF 1691 Hate Crime Training & Reporting Expansion

Dear Chair Becker-Finn and Committee Members:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners is proud to offer our support to HF 1691 (Hornstein) which makes necessary and important changes to statutes regarding recognizing, reporting, and responding to crimes motivated by bias.

Ramsey County is committed to strengthening individual, family and community health, safety and well-being. Unfortunately, the need for this expanded legislation to protect our citizens was highlighted last week by the horrific attack against Asian Americans in Atlanta, Georgia. In Ramsey County, nearly three of every 20 residents are Asian American – the second-largest racial or ethnic population in our county and by far the highest population among Minnesota counties. We have heard many stories from our API community detailing racism, both overt and subtle, which has increased dramatically since the outbreak of COVID-19 in Ramsey County a year ago. Crimes that target our community members because of their race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, national origin, or disability cannot and will not be tolerated in Ramsey County.

This legislation takes important steps by expanding who is included in the categories for crimes motivated by bias, expanding the situations in which a peace officer must report a crime as being motivated by bias, and expanding training requirements for peace officers on crimes motivated by bias. These are necessary changes and we commend Representative Hornstein for bringing them forward.

We strongly support HF 1691 and urge committee members to support it as well. Please feel free to contact Melissa Finnegan (651-278-8374) with any questions regarding this request.

Thank you,



Commissioner Toni Carter
Ramsey County Board Chair

Cc: Representatives Hornstein, Long, Pinto, Hanson, Lee, Hollins, Xiong, J., Jordan, Agbaje, Frazier, Pryor, Acomb, Edelson, Lippert, Vang
Senators Latz, Pappas, Hawj, Dziedzic, Bigham