

May 6, 2021

To Chair Nelson, Chair Kiffmeyer and Members of the State Government Finance (HF1952) Conference Committee:

In your deliberations over the next two weeks, please adopt the Racial Equity Impact Assessment Working Group provision. In much the same way that legislators have come to trust the financial analysis of legislation prior to consideration, now is the time for legislators to have nonpartisan and unbiased analysis of the impacts of proposed legislation on Minnesota's Black, Indigenous, Latinx and Asian communities. The glaring racial disparities in household income, health outcome, homeownership rates, and more are not the result of an accident. They are the result of both intentional and unintentional public policy decisions that have harmed Black and Brown communities and, in so doing, have hindered Minnesota's economic growth and competitiveness. Driving per capita income parity alone would yield an additional \$31.8B in GDP annually.

Legislators need the best available information to make the best possible decisions. The Racial Equity Impact Notes Bill is critical to unlocking this potential as it ensures key data and analysis be part of the decision-making process so that the legislature's policies and investments close racial income and wealth gaps, and in so doing, accelerate economic growth for the state.

Development of a Racial Equity Impact Assessment does not predetermine the outcome of legislation any more than our current fiscal note process does. The process simply seeks to provide information to legislators, to improve the policy making process and, most importantly, the outcomes of that decision making.

We are asking you to adopt the language on R51-A2, section 53 of the House language.

Thank you for your consideration,

The following members of the Racial Equity and Joy Coalition*

Catholic Charities of St. Paul & Minneapolis
CAPI USA
Minnesota Budget Project
YWCA
Voices for Racial Justice

Center for Economic Inclusion
The Alliance
Amherst H. Wilder Foundation
People Serving People
Minnesota Council of Nonprofits

*The Racial Equity and Joy Coalition is a group of advocates from Minnesota nonprofits who are committed to advancing racial equity and dismantling systemic racism through legislative change, within each of our organizations, and in tandem with community education for transparency and accessibility.