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March 11, 2024,  
Chair Rep. Jamie Becker-Finn  
Judiciary Finance and Civil Law Committee

Chair and Committee Members:

The work of the African American Leadership Forum ('The Forum') is rooted in shifting systems and the people that lead them towards a more just future. We partner with communities, nonprofit organizations, foundations, and governments to co-create solutions focused on many social and economic concerns. For over 15 years, The Forum 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 Forum strongly supports HF 4043 to end prison gerrymandering.** The practice of counting incarcerated residents—who are currently unable to vote while incarcerated in Minnesota's correctional facilities—as part of a district for the purposes of determining representation, is a clear violation of the principle "one person, one vote." Counting incarcerated people distorts the voting power of people in districts with large prison populations and dilutes the voting power of other communities. Moreover, our nation has still yet to reckon with the over-incarceration of Black, Latinx, and Native Americans. These communities' votes are even more diluted when currently incarcerated people are counted as part of the population where they are imprisoned.

We are encouraged by the vision of HF 4043 to right-size legislative districts and end the practice of voter dilution, as well as to require institutions to collect and maintain accurate data on race, ethnicity, and place of residence to create more accurate maps.

Thank you for considering this bill, and we ask for your support of HF 4043.

Sincerely,

Amber Jones  
Managing Director | Policy Impact  
African American Leadership Forum

