



**Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage**  
**658 Cedar Street, Suite G57**  
**St. Paul MN 55155**

March 3, 2021

Chair Michael Nelson  
House State Government Finance and Elections Committee  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155-1298

Dear Chair Nelson and Members,

As the eyes of the nation and the world turn to watch Minnesota during the trial of Derek Chauvin, our state's response to the problem of systemic racism must be as comprehensive as it is vigorous. We write you today in support of H.F. 784 (Thompson), which would direct necessary financial and technical resources to combat structures of racial injustice and their impacts on the African Heritage community in Minnesota.

House File 784 is a comprehensive package that turns the attention of Minnesotans and the world to the ways that underinvestment in the black community and its youth contribute to the race problem. Lack of adequate public and private investments in the African Heritage community across different sectors (e.g. education, health, housing, market development, etc.) functions dually as cause and effect of persistent racial disparities in economic and social outcomes. House File 784 will finance public-private programs and technical resources that would help to undo unequal racial outcomes and the burdens of these on the black community. The bill does this by setting new priorities within the state's appropriations of existing general funds.

The Minnesota Legislature empowered the Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage to ensure that people of African Heritage fully and effectively participate in and equitably benefit from the political, social, and economic resources, policies and procedures of the State of Minnesota. As the world looks upon Minnesota, we believe it is our duty to urge you to support legislation that is forceful and targeted in addressing the burdens of systemic racism within the African Heritage community. Thank you for scheduling this bill for a hearing. Please support H.F. 784.

Sincerely,

Linda Sloan  
Executive Director  
Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage