



March 16, 2021

Rep. Mohamud Noor, Chair
Workforce and Business Development Finance and Policy Committee
Minnesota State Legislature
*Via Email: rep.mohamud.noor@house.mn and
Travis.Reese@house.mn, Committee Administrator*

Dear Chair Noor,

In 2017, the Coalition of Asian American Leaders (CAAL) led an effort with a multi-racial coalition of 40+ community organizations across the state to pass the bipartisan bill which created the **Nonprofit Infrastructure Grant Program (NIGP)** to invest in small, culturally specific organizations that primarily serve historically underserved communities. The final appropriation was from DEED to Propel Nonprofits to administer a competitive process and program focused on building these organizations' infrastructure to strengthen their internal operations, scale their programs to serve their people, and become stronger employers.

Today, **I am writing to support HF2019** which would provide \$2 million to continue this necessary NGIP.

Smaller culturally specific organizations know their communities best. They understand what assets their community has and what resources would make the community stronger. They work to address some of the state's persistent racial and ethnic gaps across issue areas. Having access to funds for infrastructure, staff and other investments means more of this important work gets done across Minnesota. We cannot discount what their total contribution has been to our economy and diverse communities. Importantly, **we can no longer talk about racial equity without a vibrant ecosystem of BIPOC led and created nonprofits who have the infrastructure to apply for state funding.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KaYing Yang', written in a cursive style.

KaYing Yang
Director of Programs & Partnerships
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