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To the members of the Minnesota Senate and the Minnesota House of Representatives,

I write this letter to convey the support of the National Council of Jewish Women Minnesota for the Combating Hate bill (HF 181/SF 691). In light of the disturbing rise of hate crimes against minority groups in recent years, this bill is urgently needed in order to streamline the reporting of hate incidents, support victims, and empower community organizations that are working to make Minnesota a safe place for all Minnesotans.

Despite the chronic underreporting of hate crimes under the current system, the FBI received reports of 194 hate crimes in Minnesota in 2020 alone, which amounted to a 12-year high at the time. We call on you to stand with us against hate and to affirm the equal value and dignity of all Minnesotans, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, or national origin.

NCJW Minnesota therefore urges you to support HF 181/SF 691 to ensure the collection of more accurate data on bias and discrimination and to provide culturally-specific support to impacted communities and individuals throughout our state.

Best Regards,

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