

Rep. John Thompson

First HF784 Amendment Statement

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. My name is John Thompson and I represent district 67A.

Mr. Chairman, I have Edward McDonald, Keith Baker and Valerie Castile as key presenters on the bill and to assist with questions from the committee

Mr. Chairman, I like to first ask the committee to approve the amendment to the bill which has been distributed to members. The amendment offered by Management and Budget and the Department of Administration which I accept deletes on Page 5 of the bill sections 1 and 2 and inserts the amended language.

The amended language does two things:

1. Ensures we are doing our availability, utilization, and reporting with our affirmative action program and contract procurement by each protected group (Women, Disabled, Black, Latino, Indigenous, Asian, and Veteran Status) versus the aggregate reporting we have historically done, and
2. Requires quarterly progress report.

I ask for your support.

HF784 Bill Summary Statement

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. Thank you for considering this historic bill.

Specifically House File 784 does two things:

1. It targets \$435 million in state appropriations statewide in the African American and African Immigrant community to build and expand capacity to address disparities created by the poor administration and enforcement of our primary equal opportunity laws and made worse by the pandemic, and
2. The bill also use \$22 million to correct the poor administration, and enforcement of primary equal opportunity laws (Affirmative Action, Contract Procurement, and Human Rights Enforcement) to end systemic racism, racial injustice and eliminate disparities.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I ask for your support of Minnesota's African American and African Immigrant community and we are prepared to answer any questions you may have regarding HF784.