

March 15, 2023

Dear Chair Freiberg and members of the House Elections Finance and Policy Committee:

The Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs (MCLA) is tasked to advise and inform on legislation and policy that pertains to Latino Minnesotans statewide and serve as a liaison between government and Latino communities. The Council is a non-partisan state agency in the Executive Branch.

I write in support of H.F.2486 (Rep. Frazier), the *Ranked Choice Voting* legislative proposal. Many studies and organizations that work on expanding democracy, and guaranteeing more diverse participation and representation, show that ranked choice voting is associated with improved political representation for people of color. This bill will gradually establish this system that will accomplish these goals without risking the integrity of the elections.

We also appreciate that the bill's authors have considered ethnic and cultural representation in the task force. By including entities such as the ethnic councils, the bill reflects the fast-growing populations that will become voters by virtue of voting age and citizenship. Suggestions as to best practices to educate and reach out to culturally and linguistic diverse communities will be important, so this new system is not only electorally efficient and properly implemented, but also inclusive of all diverse voters. We also agree that other independent representatives should be part of the taskforce to guarantee a plurality of perspectives and the knowledge needed to provide input to these changes.

Thank you very much for your consideration and support of this bill.

Sincerely,



Rosa Tock, Executive Director