

100%

100% Campaign

705 Raymond Ave. - Suite 100

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www.100percentmn.org

March 25, 2021

Chair Mariani and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to express our support for increasing and dedicating our annual state appropriation to Minnesota's Disaster Assistance Contingency Account (DACA).

Minnesotans know how to come together in a crisis. In floods or fires, windstorms or blizzards, we're often at our best when we need each other most.

But too often our crises are too big for one neighborhood, one county, or even one region of the state to solve on their own. With increasing frequency over the last two decades, Minnesotans have faced natural disasters that require state or federal disaster assistance.

House File 1078, on lines 11.30 – 12.2, appropriates \$25 million in one-time money from the general fund for DACA. This is an important and essential investment, but it's also inadequate.

We recommend making this a permanent appropriation that would ensure the account carries a \$30 million balance each year.

According to Joe Kelly, the Director of Minnesota's Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, in his March 15th testimony in the Senate Judiciary Committee, communities across our state have accessed DACA fifty-three times for state-declared disasters since the account was created in 2014. **In just the last three years, DACA funds have been used, on average, for ten state-declared and one federal-declared disaster per year, expending, on average, \$22 million per year.**

Unfortunately, this is a growing trend. According to February 2nd testimony from Mark Kulda of the Insurance Federation of Minnesota before the House Capital Investment Committee, **our state has experienced more and larger storms since 1998.** This increase has been reflected in the growth of homeowner's insurance premiums. In Minnesota, our average rates have increased 366% between 1998 and 2015. This increase moved Minnesota from having the 35th highest premium rates in the U.S. to the 14th highest rates during this period.

This is because **Minnesota is above average when it comes to extreme weather.** When comparing states' all-time weather extremes for maximum temperature, minimum temperature, greatest 24-hour precipitation event, maximum 24-hour snowfall, and annual tornadoes per 10,000 square miles, Minnesota ranks second in the U.S. for extreme weather.

Given this trend, and the foreseeable and urgent needs that Minnesotans will face, **it's prudent to increase and dedicate funding for Minnesota's Disaster Assistance Contingency Account.**

Thank you for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Conry', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Chris Conry
Campaign Director
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