



Written testimony to House Ways & Means Committee re HF4611

May 12, 2020

Dear Chair Carlson & Members:

ISAI AH is a statewide organization comprised of over 200 congregations, 30 mosques, 100 childcare centers, and two dozen barber shops in Minnesota. Altogether, these institutions represent half a million Minnesotans. Our mission is to enable people to work together to organize and advocate for racial, social and economic justice.

ISAI AH leaders believe all people - black, white or brown, indigenous, newcomer or long-time resident, in cities, suburb or rural – are inherently of value and deserving of dignity, inclusion, equity and redemption. Our faith traditions and sacred texts challenge us and our elected leaders to embrace a society in which all people are able to fully participate in creating and enjoying God's commonwealth; bringing redemption and healing to ourselves, our community, and our state.

We ask your support for HF 4611 to establish an emergency community relief grant program to support Minnesotans who fall through the gaps of federal stimulus grants, unemployment insurance, and other relief programs, including families of mixed immigration status.

Like with many efforts that seek to aid those who are most marginalized, HF 4611 would benefit people across the state in various situations such as families with students over age 17. This legislation is essential to patch some of the holes in the safety net for the most vulnerable Minnesotans. Passing this legislation is to act in alignment with our moral call to love and treat our neighbor as ourselves and to welcome the stranger as our own.

As always, thank you for considering our view and for your service to all people of Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Lars Negstad, Policy Director

ISAI AH