



CAVWV
Coalition of Allied Vietnam War Veterans
PO Box 40141, Saint Paul, MN 55104



CAVWV testimony in support of Minnesota HF 2428

Chairman Lilly, members of the committee.

On behalf of the CAVWV.

My name is Scott Walker and I am the founder and Special Projects Director of the Coalition of Allied Vietnam War Veterans an international coalition of foreign national, United States Military and Agency veterans headquartered in Saint Paul, MN.

I testify today in support of HF 2428 a bill appropriating \$9,000,000 from the Minnesota Cultural and Heritage Fund which was created specifically for projects such as this. Our production of a nine episodes will chronologically document Asian Minnesotans stories and personal accounts while defending freedom in Southeast Asia.

Minnesota enjoys a large and diverse population of Southeast Asians which will serve as the foundation of the series.

The CAVWV has recruited Cristobal Krusen and Jarad Neher to write and produce this historic project. They have committed to use local talent drawing from the rich arts community in Minnesota and will document stories from each of the Southeast Asian countries of Laos, Cambodia and South Vietnam.

Although we have not yet collected stories we expect to document the rich ancient history of Southeast Asia. The events that led to war. The battles engaged in. The social economic affects of the war on their populations. The struggle after the evacuation of American forces. Their flight to freedom for some and the enduring mental effects of the war on our population. It will also document the difficulty of assimilation to a new homeland.

A tenth special feature will also be produced which will accompany the entire collection of stories recorded and given to us in preparation for the series and those accounts will be given to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC to be added their collection of Vietnam War archives.

We believe that this series will support our asian communities, help non asians understand better their neighbors and will serve to help alleviate the racism so many confront today. It will also serve as a teaching tool for our youth to better understand their rich heritage and the difficult issues and surcomstances thier ancestors faced before emigrating to the United States.

This truly is a total Minnesota project worth your support.

Thank you. Scott Walker

