



March 17, 2021

The Honorable Chair Mohumud Noor
Workforce and Business Development Finance and Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for HF 2019

Dear Chair Noor:

On behalf of the City of Saint Paul and the Racial Equity Legislative Advocacy Workgroup, I am writing to express my support for HF 2019 the Nonprofit Infrastructure Bill, which appropriates funding for culturally specific nonprofits.

In the Fall of 2020, the City of Saint Paul convened the Racial Equity Legislative Advocacy Workgroup, a group of 25 self-selected nonprofit organizations and City employees, to identify and prioritize policy proposals to advance health equity and economic justice efforts. The workgroup selected the Nonprofit Infrastructure Grant Program as one of multiple key policy priorities to support.

The City of Saint Paul is proud to have hundreds of nonprofits located in our city. We are also home to a racially and linguistically diverse community with a growing number of culturally specific nonprofits. These nonprofits serve an important role in the community. They provide essential services in our communities and fill a gap when government cannot meet the needs of its residents. They are a critical and necessary part of our community.

The on-going COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the persistent and pervasive racial inequities in Minnesota. National data shows that vulnerable individuals and groups, including unsheltered, low-income, immigrant, refugees and communities of color, disproportionately experience more negative and harsher impacts. And, it takes longer for them to recover from a crisis. Please support HF 2019 so that we can begin to address the racial inequities in our state and work together to advance health equity and economic justice for all our residents.

Respectfully,

Mayor Melvin Carter
City of Saint Paul