



Legal Services Advocacy Project
Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid
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St. Paul, MN 55114
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May 13, 2020

The Honorable Lyndon Carlson
Chair
Ways and Means Committee
Minnesota House of Representative
479 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Pat Garofalo
Republican Lead
Ways and Means Committee
Minnesota House of Representative
295 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Liz Olson
Vice Chair
Ways and Means Committee
Minnesota House of Representative
471 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: HF 4611 – Emergency Community Relief Grants

Dear Chair Carlson, Vice Chair Olson, Republican Lead Garofalo and Members of the Committee:

The Legal Services Advocacy Project (LSAP), writes in support of HF 4611. LSAP is a statewide division of Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid, providing legislative and administrative advocacy on behalf of our clients and all low-income Minnesotans, including elder Minnesotans and Minnesotans with disabilities.

A portion of our clients, for a variety of reasons, are not eligible for federal stimulus payments, unemployment insurance, and other relief programs. For example, elderly Minnesotans and Minnesotans with disabilities who do not receive Social Security are left out. They are as much in need as those who are eligible.

The grants available under this bill are specifically targeted to pay for food, emergency household items, rent support, utility bills, and other basic needs that are more critical now than ever. Although the state will face future budgetary challenges, it has faced and overcome similar challenges before – and it will again. But, from a human perspective, we have never in virtually all of our lifetimes faced anything like COVID-19. Making strategic investments at this time to support human life is paramount and urgent. Therefore, as legislators balance competing priorities, LSAP urges that it make HF 4611 one of them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ron Elwood".

Ron Elwood
Supervising Attorney