

April 22, 2025

Chair Stephenson, Chair Torkelson, and House Ways & Means Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Judiciary appropriations omnibus (HF 2300). Since civil rights laws are foundational to the state of Minnesota, the Department of Human Rights appreciates the House Judiciary & Civil Law Committee funding the agency's base budget for the biennium. However, MDHR is concerned that the operating adjustment included in HF 2300 does not reflect the operating adjustment outlined in the Governor and Lt. Governor's budget and is insufficient to meet agency obligations.

MDHR is a people-powered agency, and it is the talented team within our department that brings the Minnesota Human Rights Act to life every day. MDHR is navigating a substantial increase in its workload, and it is important that the agency can continue to ensure that every Minnesotan is protected by, and benefits from, our state civil rights laws, as required by statute.

The operating adjustment is intended to address the rising employer-paid health care contributions, salary and compensation-related costs, IT services, and other direct operating costs – all of which are essential to fully supporting this team.

Please feel free to contact me or Nico Bauer ([nico.bauer@state.mn.us](mailto:nico.bauer@state.mn.us)), MDHR's Government Relations Director, with any questions.

Thank you for the tremendous amount of time and effort you and your staff have put into developing this budget and for allowing MDHR the opportunity to underscore the critical need for its full operating adjustment. We look forward to continuing these important conversations.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Lucero  
Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Human Rights