

May 1, 2023

Members of the Omnibus State Government Finance Conference Committee:

The Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans (the Council) writes this letter to request that the Committee support the Senate's provision for the Council's budget appropriation.

The Council greatly appreciates Chair Murphy, Senator Pratt, and the members of the Senate Finance Committee for supporting the A36 amendment to Senate File 1426, which provides for an additional \$250,000 per biennium to allow for the addition of one additional FTE, a Special Projects Coordinator, to increase the Council's capacity to a total of five FTEs.

This important addition will greatly increase the Council's ability to engage and uplift our communities, particularly our smaller communities and those in Greater Minnesota. Identified projects that this position will support include working on the "Mapping Asian Pacific Minnesota: Cultural and Economic Destinations" project with strategic partners including DEED, assisting small communities such as our Cambodian Minnesotan community with designing and executing on leadership development projects, partnering with emerging communities such as our Micronesian in Milan, Minnesota to build community and organizational capacity, and supporting projects honoring the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War.

We respectfully request that the Conference Committee support the appropriation for the Council included in the Senate position.

Sincerely,



Saraswati Singh  
Board Chair  
Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans



Sia Her  
Executive Director  
Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans