



## Homeland Security and Emergency Management

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April 7, 2026

Chair Novotny, Chair Moller and Committee Members,

The Department of Public Safety's (DPS) Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) Division respectfully submits this letter to express concerns with the approach of HF3530.

The Minnesota Disaster Assistance Contingency Account (DACA), established in 2014, was designed to mirror the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Public Assistance program, with the state covering 75 percent of eligible costs and local jurisdictions responsible for the remaining 25 percent. DACA is the State of Minnesota's public assistance program, designed to support jurisdictions impacted by disasters by reimbursing 75 percent of eligible costs incurred during response and recovery efforts. Eligible expenses may include overtime, repair and reconstruction of damaged public infrastructure, and debris removal. Recognizing that disasters both begin and end at the local level, this cost-share structure has provided a consistent and equitable framework for disaster recovery across Minnesota.

If a disaster meets the federal threshold for the Governor to request a presidential declaration and that request is approved, impacted jurisdictions would have 75% of their public assistance costs covered by the federal government. The State of Minnesota would cover the remaining 25% through DACA, ensuring that eligible public assistance costs for affected jurisdictions are fully covered.

Since its inception, 94 state disasters have been declared that qualified for DACA support. In each instance, the established 75/25 cost-share model has been applied without exception. This consistency has ensured fairness, predictability, and fiscal stability for both the state and local partners.

HF3530 would set a precedent that departs from this long-standing framework, undermining the consistency that has guided disaster assistance funding for over a decade. Additionally, the disaster referenced in HF 3530 impacted a total of seven counties; however, this bill provides relief only to Beltrami County and does not extend support to the other six affected counties. Altering this approach could create uncertainty in future disaster cost-sharing and place additional strain on the sustainability of the DACA program.

For these reasons, DPS-HSEM opposes HF3530.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allison Farole".

Allison Farole

Director, DPS Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division

Alcohol  
and Gambling  
Enforcement

Bureau of  
Criminal  
Apprehension

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and Vehicle  
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