



March 21, 2023

Dear Members of the House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee,

The Minnesota Council of Nonprofits (MCN) is the largest statewide association of nonprofits in the country, representing over 2,300 member organizations across the state. Through MCN, nonprofits join together across interest areas to work on issues of common interest to all. MCN works to inform, promote, connect, and strengthen individual nonprofits and the nonprofit sector.

**We write in support of HF2078.** This bill would provide funding in the state's base budget for nonprofit security enhancements, protecting vulnerable communities from threats. The bill would offer financial support to nonprofits that are at high risk of terrorist attack, such as houses of worship, summer camps, and schools.

This funding would supplement the federal government's Nonprofit Security Grant Program. To receive grant funding, nonprofits submit an extensive application to the Homeland Security and Emergency Management division of MN Department of Public Safety and then to FEMA. The nonprofits who do not receive federal funding are automatically eligible to receive state funds for the same projects meaning nonprofits only need to apply one time through well-vetted process. This process is particularly valuable for small nonprofits, which generally have less staff capacity to apply for such funding.

Everyone deserves to be safe when praying at a house of worship, attending summer camp, or seeking social services. This is an important public safety investment for nonprofits and the communities they serve. Security enhancements can be costly and nonprofits with small budgets would benefit greatly from the nonprofit security grant program. This proposed grant program would allow nonprofits to allocate funding to other needed expenses to carry out their charitable mission work.

If you have any questions, please contact Marie Ellis, public policy director, at 612-518-0612 or [mellis@minnesotanonprofits.org](mailto:mellis@minnesotanonprofits.org). Thank you for your continuing partnership as we work together to serve the communities of Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Marie Ellis in blue ink.

Marie Ellis  
Public Policy Director

Handwritten signature of Ileana Mejia in blue ink.

Ileana Mejia  
Public Policy Advocate