

March 4, 2021

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee

I am Dr. Etienne Djevi, MD. I practice Infectious diseases in the east metro. I support and invite you to support HF784 to prevent the fire next time.

After COVID-19 hit Minnesota about a year ago, I have witnessed so many deaths of patients of all backgrounds. It is also clear in my day to day patient care that black and brown people are disproportionately caring the heavy load of deaths. The Minnesota Department of Health's data confirm what I see everyday at work.

Although for many the disparities are new knowledge, they are well known to the black and brown communities and stem from two common denominators, poverty and systemic/structural racism with disparities in education, housing, healthcare, etc...

In Infectious Diseases, prevention is always more cost effective. This is why we are doing social distancing and wearing masks.

HF784 is intended to prevent the conditions that increase vulnerabilities of the black community.

As the demographics of the Nation and the State of MN continue to change, it is economically vital and in the best interest of the State to invest in Black People. This investment will pay dividends in diversifying sources of revenues for the State. In the words of the great Paul Wellstone "We all do better, when we all do better."

Let's invest for the future of the state and pass HF784.

Thank you for your time.

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