



African American Leadership Forum

SUPPORT FOR HF 25 FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY VIOLENCE PREVENTION

January 19, 2023

Chair Kelly Moller
Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee
200 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Moller and Committee Members:

The African American Leadership Forum (AALF) is a movement of more than 5,000 African American leaders, institutions, allies, and systems that come together to collaborate and champion solutions that improve the lives and experiences of African Americans in Minnesota. Our goal is to build a just and healthy society that works equally well for everyone. For 15 years, AALF Twin Cities has harnessed the collective power of Black communities to solve complex social problems.

The African American Leadership Forum expresses its support for HF 25's allocation of \$150 million over five years for community crime and violence prevention grants. In the aftermath of the murder of George Floyd and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, AALF spent nearly a year deeply engaging community leaders in Black communities on the most important actions our landscape must take to increase public safety. It became abundantly clear that significant investments were needed for community-based organizations who have been on the frontlines, partnering with local law enforcement agencies, to intervene in violent crime and help divert community members from entering the criminal legal system. This critical funding will expand access to programs and services that are culturally relevant and meet essential needs in our communities.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill and we ask for your support of HF 25 and for ongoing funding for community crime and violence prevention grants.

Sincerely,

Amber Jones
Managing Director, Policy Impact
African American Leadership Forum