



FRAYEO

Fortune Relief And Youth Empowerment organization

Dear Public Safety Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for House File HF 1712, which will provide resources for programs like FRAYEO's Let It Go. As you may know, Let It Go is a culturally specific conflict resolution program that provides positive alternatives to violence for at-risk youth who have been impacted by violence. Through the ARPA Gun Violence Prevention funding, we were able to serve over 100 youth last year, helping them to develop the skills they need to become community peace ambassadors.

Let It Go has been a safe space for many underserved youth to heal, interact, and learn. These are often youth who have experienced violence firsthand and need someone to talk to, someone who speaks the same language as they do, and someone who can provide them with the tools they need to cultivate non-violent communities. The program has been transformative for many of these young people, as evidenced by the following quote from Audra Peery, Engagement Director at the Blaisdell YMCA: "Because of Let It Go, Youth at the Y have more personal tools to work things out before things become a problem. Suspensions have gone down and many of the youth really do act as 'Peace Ambassadors' and make the Y a better place. It's a program that makes a practical positive difference in the gym, throughout the facility, and in the neighborhood."

As Nelson Mandela once said, "Many who live with violence day in and day out assume that it is an intrinsic part of the human condition. But this is not so. Violence can be prevented. Violent cultures can be turned around." FRAYEO's Let It Go is a shining example of this. With the rise in juvenile crimes in our communities, we need programs like Let It Go now more than ever to engage and empower our youth.

I urge you to support House File HF 1712 and invest in programs like ours that are making a positive difference in our communities. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ukasha Dakane

Executive Director
FRAYEO

