



JEWISH COMMUNITY
RELATIONS COUNCIL
MINNESOTA & THE DAKOTAS

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January 17, 2023

Dear Chair Moller and members of the Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee,

On behalf of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas (JCRC) we enthusiastically support HF 181. The JCRC is proud to be an active member of the Communities Combatting Hate coalition which, advocates for policy changes to make our state safe for all Minnesotans.

As the primary organization responsible for the security of Minnesota's Jewish community, the JCRC has tracked an alarming increase in antisemitic incidents, including those which are criminal and others which while not criminal are still hateful. These Minnesota incidents have matched the documented national rise in antisemitic incidents as well as an increase in antisemitic attitudes among our fellow Americans.

In response to this rise in hate, the JCRC has been required to retain two full-time, highly experienced directors of community security. Millions of philanthropic dollars are being directed towards just safeguarding our community. And while this investment is necessary, we so wish that such funding could be spent instead on education, our vulnerable populations, the arts, or a myriad of other activities which give meaning to and do not simply protect life.

Ultimately, however, antisemitism like other forms of bigotry is not a problem for our Jewish community or other targeted communities to solve. Antisemitism and other forms of hate are societal problems which all of us are called upon to address. We know that HF 181 by itself will not by itself solve antisemitism and other forms of hate. However, by improving upon how Minnesota identifies and addresses hatred in a more inclusive and holistic approach, HF 181 is absolutely an important step in the right direction.

For these reasons we gratefully thank the Chair for bringing this bill today before the committee and our authors for their strong leadership. We strongly encourage all members of the Committee to support HF 181.

Best regards,

Ethan Roberts, J.D.

Deputy Executive Director

Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas