




Terese Tomanek
City Councilor, At Large

Room 318
411 West First Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

 218-216-9126

 ttomanek@duluthmn.gov

March 2, 2021

Representative John Thompson
Senator Omar Fateh
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Honorable Representatives and Senators,

Thank you for your efforts in sponsoring the Philando Castile Omnibus Bill which speaks to redressing centuries of inequity and implicit bias in all areas of the lives of African Heritage people, including but not limited to housing, business opportunities, arts and culture, and gross inequities in the criminal justice system.

We, the undersigned Councilors of the City of Duluth, write this letter in support of HF784/SF800, legislation that seeks to make strides to undo the many wrongs of our past that have so grievously affected the lives of African Heritage people of our state and our country.

We believe that this legislation will aid our city and state's efforts toward advancing causes related to recognition and lessening of systemic racism. This legislation is a beginning, and we will work with all leaders to ensure Duluth will do our part to ensure equitable treatment of all.

The legislation allocates appropriations to the Department of Human Rights, Cultural and Heritage Preservation, Entrepreneurial and Business Training, Housing Stability Initiative, Philando Castille Family and Community Centers, Culturally Competent Health Services, School Breakfast and Lunch Debt Forgiveness, Guidance Counseling and Tutorial Services, Training and Technology Access, Urban Agriculture, Audits of Equal Opportunity, Judicial Fairness Audit, Crime and Violence Prevention, Recidivism Reduction Services, and importantly Cultural Competency in Law Enforcement.

This legislation will implement immediate action toward acknowledging the transgressions of the past, changing the inequities of the present and charting a course of better opportunities for all in the future. We appreciate your work and offer our complete support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Renee Van Nett, Duluth City Council President, District 4
Janet Kennedy, Duluth City Councilor, District 5
Terese Tomanek, Duluth City Councilor At-Large
Roz Randorf, Duluth City Councilor, District 3


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Cc: Representative Carlos Mariani
Representative Cedrick Frazier

